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# CYCLOPEDIA OF PASTORAL METHODS

*A New and Comprehensive Ready Reference Manual for Ministers of All Denominations*

REV. G. B. F. HALLOCK, D.D.

By Rev. G. B. F. HALLOCK, D.D.

*Cyclopedia of Pastoral Methods*

*Cyclopedia of Commencement Sermons and Baccalaureate Addresses*

*One Hundred Choice Sermons for Children*

*One Hundred Best Sermons for Special Days and Occasions*

*The Evangelistic Cyclopedia*

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*The Teaching of Jesus Concerning the Christian Life*

*The Model Prayer*

*Journeying in the Land Where Jesus Lived*

*The Homiletic Year*

*Christ in the Home*

*Growing Toward God*

*Upward Steps*

*God's Whispered Secrets*

*The Wedding Manual*

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# CYCLOPEDIA OF PASTORAL METHODS

PULPIT PRAYERS AND AIDS TO THE WORTHY CONDUCT OF PUBLIC DEVOTIONS, INCLUDING ALL SPECIAL DAYS AND OCCASIONS, SALUTATIONS, INVOCATIONS, OFFERTORY SENTENCES AND PRAYERS, CEREMONIES FOR WEDDINGS, FUNERALS, COMMUNION SERVICES, BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, ADMISSION OF ELDERS, DEACONS, DEACONESSES, INSTALLATION OF BIBLE SCHOOL OFFICERS, SENDING OUT MISSIONARIES, ADOPTION OF CHILDREN, VISITING THE SICK, CORNER-STONE LAYINGS, DEDICATION OF CHURCHES, REOPENINGS, SETTING APART OF PARISH HOUSES, EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS, PRIVATE HOMES, TOWERS AND CHURCH SPIRES, ORGANS, WINDOWS, BELLS, PAINTINGS, PULPITS, FONTS, COMMUNION TABLES, LAMPS, BIBLES, HYMN BOOKS, CHURCH DECORATIONS, MORTGAGE BURNINGS, ETC.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

REV. G. B. F. HALLOCK, D.D.

EDITOR OF *The Expositor*

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# FOREWORD

The lot and life of the writer and compiler of this book have been cast amid busiest and most pressing pastoral demands. Forty years of need and of experience lie enshrined within its covers. Would that some one had presented me with such a volume when I was a young minister, or at any time along the way! I needed it; would have prized it; would have used it—as a source of inspiration, of pastoral methods, and as a ready reference manual for innumerable occasions.

This is the first to be issued of the three proposed works to fill this long-felt want. The books are to be purely pastoral, intended for ministers only. It is believed they will prove to be unique, supplying a demand no one has yet attempted to meet. And they will be comprehensive, aiming to be cyclopedic in material of this nature. One would need go to the table of contents of each volume to find the full inclusion.

Without going into minutiæ, but referring only in barest outline—in this volume will be found aids to the worthy conduct of public devotions, including all special days and occasions, with salutations, invocations, pastoral prayers, offertory sentences and prayers, intercessions for special persons and objects; here too are numerous ceremonies for weddings, funerals, communion services, baptisms, confirmations, ordinations, for the adoption of children, and for the sending out of missionaries; also services for the installation of Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses and of Bible School officers and teachers. In addition, and possibly even more valuable because harder to find, are many choice and fitting forms for cornerstone layings, dedication of churches, re-openings, setting apart of parish houses, educational buildings, hospitals, private homes, manses, towers and church spires, organs, windows, bells, chimes, choir stalls, paintings, pulpits, fonts, communion tables and communion sets, pulpit lamps and Bibles, church decorations, flags, monuments, memorial tablets, an illuminated cross, hymn books, for mortgage burnings, etc.

This volume is to be followed by a Cyclopedia of Funeral

Sermons and Sketches, with Ministrant's Manual. It contains also forms of service, suggestive texts and themes, salutations, prayers, Scripture readings, committals, quotable poetry and a large section devoted to a comprehensive collection of best illustrations for use in connection with funeral services. What minister could fail to value such aid in carrying out these well recognized as among his most exacting duties?

A Cyclopedia of Sermon Outlines and Sketches for All Special Days and Occasions will complete the trilogy. It will contain a comprehensive assortment of suggestive material for the outstanding days and seasons of the entire church year, also for fraternities, etc.—a sermon suggestor and inspirer, offering welcome help amid pressing days and duties. One of its most valuable features is a selection of more than fifteen hundred suggestive texts and themes especially appropriate to the various days and seasons and exceptional occasions.

These books are intended for use by ministers of all bodies. They are non-denominational, or, to be more exact, interdenominational.

The aim has been to make them practically indispensable to every preacher, pastor and theological student.

G. B. F. H.

*BRICK CHURCH,*
*Rochester, N. Y.*

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# Part I: AIDS TO THE WORTHY CONDUCT OF PUBLIC DEVOTIONS

PULPIT AND PASTORAL PRAYERS, INCLUDING ALL SPECIAL DAYS AND OCCASIONS, ALSO SCRIPTURAL SALUTATIONS, INVOCATIONS, OFFERTORY SENTENCES, PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL OBJECTS AND PERSONS, ETC.

# Part I: AIDS TO THE WORTHY CONDUCT OF PUBLIC DEVOTIONS

(Some attention has been paid to the seasons and even the months in placing the following material. But no strict analysis could be made. The very nature of the writings suggests their use as a manual of devotion, a quickener of thought and a source of methods in connection with the conduct of public devotions. There are prayers and suggestions here for all the varying seasons and special occasions of the year. There are also some private prayers that we think cannot but prove helpful to the minister's own spiritual life.)

## TEACH US TO PRAY

The prayer, "Lord, teach us to pray," may well be the earnest cry of every minister whose responsibility is to lead his people in the devotions of the sanctuary. If close attention ought to be given to the public reading of the Holy Scriptures and to the preparation and delivery of the sermon, what about the prayer that is offered, not to the people, but to Almighty God, not in the minister's own behalf only, but for the congregation? This one thing should characterize pulpit prayer, the realization of God's presence by the minister; and that realization should by his devoutness of spirit and directness of petition be impressed upon the people. All should feel that the living Father, who hears and answers prayers, is not far off, but in their very midst.

A fellow-student who had been preaching for the summer months said to me, "It is not so hard to preach as to pray. To make that long prayer one feels most of the time as if he were speaking into the air." Older preachers than seminary students have had the same experience. Indeed, in most of our churches there seems to be much praying into empty space. If not into vacancy at least at the people, their presence being felt far more than the Almighty's. We have read about a prayer, the most eloquent ever addressed to a Boston audience. When Dr. Joseph Parker preached in Toronto, one

of the city papers said the next morning that "the London preacher pronounced to his vast audience one of his great prayers." Such is the idea many have of pulpit prayer, and such is the experience of many while praying—it is all to the people. But where the power and the glory of the divine presence are not realized there can be no burning words of soul-stirring praise, confession, and holy desire actually and consciously poured into the ear and heart of our Heavenly Father.—A. H. MOMENT, D.D.

A pastor writes: "I believe that the average preacher greatly needs to study devotional material; to get him out of his own stereotyped ruts, to enlarge and ennoble his conceptions, to purify his aspirations, and at the same time to chasten and elevate his prayer diction and vocabulary. And I regret to say that a very large proportion of the prayers actually uttered in the pulpits of our country, if taken down verbatim would prove to be pretty poor devotional reading, I am afraid. Moreover, not many men are gifted in prayer. We need more spiritual geniuses for that work! Many of the most 'popular' preachers know little of the secret of prayer."

## NEW YEAR SALUTATIONS

(Many ministers use a Scriptural salutation as the opening of the public service. These are a few appropriate to the New Year Sunday.)

1. "And Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." 1. Sam. 7:12.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye." Ps. 32:8.

2. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth."

"The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even for evermore." Ps. 121:1, 2, 7, 8.

3. "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God." Ps. 90:1, 2.

## NEW YEAR INVOCATION (1)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we bow before thee as the children of grace and love. Thy mercy has brought us through the year gone by. We thank thee for the assurance that fills our souls that the New Year will bring new mercies and new opportunities for service. Help us to enter into its gates with praise. Forgive the sins of the past. Purify our souls, and make our eyes keen and watchful, in order that we may discern Thy purpose at every turning of the way. Help us to hallow all our circumstances whether they appear friendly or adverse, and may we subdue them all to thy holy will. We pray that during the coming year we may obtain new visions of the glory of Christ. May his gospel of grace become more exceedingly precious as we gaze into its unsearchable wealth. Let in the light as our eyes are able to bear it. Tell us some of the many things which are now withholden because we are not yet able to hear them. And wilt thou graciously grant us new possibilities of service. May we light lamps on many a dark road. May we give help to many a tired pilgrim who is burdened by the greatness of the way. May we give cups of refreshment to those who are thirsty and faint. Lead us on to the highest and best things; we ask in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

## NEW YEAR INVOCATION (2)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, with whom a thousand years are as one day and one day as a thousand years, we the children of a brief time draw near to thee as we stand at the threshold of another year and seek thy guidance. Teach us to so number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. Help us to realize the infinite significance of life's opportunities. Give us calm minds and courageous hearts and contented spirits as we go forward to face the unknown experiences of the New Year. May we have in our lives a great renewal; so that old duties may become fresh, and old affections ardent, and old aspirations filled with power, and old faith abundantly satisfying. And above all, teach us to walk this year in trustful fellowship with thee, our God.

But we must come also, our Father, bowed down with a sense of our sins. We are sinners indeed. In thought, word

and deed we have sinned against thy holy Law. But have mercy upon us, O Lord, according to thy loving-kindness, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our iniquity. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities and cleanse us from our sins. Create within us clean hearts, O God, and renew right spirits within us. Restore unto us the joy of thy salvation and uphold us with thy free spirit.

"Our Father," etc.

## INVOCATION PRAYER (3)

Almighty and most gracious God, we come into thy courts in the multitude of thy mercies. We gratefully remember the providence that has been round about us all the days of the past year. We have rejoiced in the fulfillment of thy promises, and we have been sustained in all the changes of the way. We magnify the grace which has fed our souls, and the truth which has made us free. We ask forgiveness for the sin so often repeated, and which has marred and broken our communion. Mercifully deliver us from the bondage of guilt, and mightily incline our souls against all uncleanness. Help us to learn serious lessons from the rebellions and mistakes of yesterday, and in lowliness of spirit may we make new vows before thee. Deliver us from any pride which has been the cause of our defeat, and help us to walk in humility in all our ways. Grant that what remains of our years may be spent in newness of life, and that the end of the day may be radiant with the gifts of thy love and grace. Draw us into the fellowship of kindred joy and peace. May we be one in the communion of the Holy Ghost. May our common sympathies lighten the single burdens, and may our common hope hold us in common inspiration. These mercies we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.—Rev. J. H. Jowett, D.D.

## NEW YEAR INVOCATION (4)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have heard thy call to come to thy house this first Sabbath of the New Year and behold we are here present to hear that thou wilt speak unto us. We ask thy blessing upon us now as a worshiping congregation. Give us the spirit of adoration, the spirit of

supplication, the spirit of hopefulness. We have come to make mention of thy goodness, to recall thy mercies, to meditate upon thy Word, and to have our spiritual strength renewed. Grant that with an eye single to thy glory we may worship thee who art a spirit in spirit and in truth, in the beauty of holiness.

In penitence for the sins of the past year and in humility of heart we would come to thee. We would realize now how insignificant we are. Our lives are for a brief space, and thou art eternal. Our strength passes in a day, and thou art omnipotent. And yet such is thy love that even we may call thee Father, and may ask for all that we think we need. Hear us as we offer our prayer and answer us in peace. Give us pure hearts. Give us obedient spirits. Give us power to do thy will. Help us to love thy law. Strengthen us in our battle with sin. Let not sin have dominion over us in this year. May we come nearer daily to the character of Jesus Christ. So help us in all things to be children of God in the midst of an evil world.

We ask it for the sake of Christ who taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven," etc.

## NEW YEAR INVOCATION (5)

Our Father, we thank thee for letting us go over into the New Year and for leaving our unfruitful tree still standing in the field. We thank thee for thy patience toward us and thy care over us. Forgive us our poor requitals for thy love. Give us grace to pass through to-day's open door, facing the clean canvas with a consecrated brush, to meet the new opportunities with a clear vision and to greet the untraveled pathway with faith's cheerful dare. Help us to forget what we ought not to remember and to remember what we ought not to forget out of past years. Give us, first of all, Thyself, and add what else may bring us more of thee. If the way is to be a pleasant one, keep it from making us selfish; if it is to be a toilsome one, speak to us more often, so that we may learn to love it. Give us to understand whatever we need to know and before thy veil of mystery patiently to wait. Make our lives so evidently sincere that our defects may not turn others from thyself; and may our little deeds be so free of self as to glorify only thee. Decide thou for us how much of prosperity and happiness we

may safely be intrusted with; and if thou must chasten, remember how little we can bear alone. Above all, use us in this world as much as thou canst, and teach us to use thee as much as thou dost desire. Amen.—REV. J. E. BUSHNELL, D.D.

## NEW YEAR INVOCATION (6)

O thou with whom a thousand years are as one day, and one day as a thousand years, let thy compassion and thy loving-kindness be shown to us, the creatures of a day. Grant that in prayer and vision we may be lifted out of the seen and temporal, and have the vision of eternal things. Help us to bring the eternal into the affairs of our daily life, that common things may be transfigured with the glory of God. Fill all rulers and governors with the spirit of Christ, and unite all the peoples in thy love and service. And may Christ dwell in our hearts by faith, so that his love may be made manifest through us, and thy love through him. Fill the coming year with the ministry of his presence, and lead thy wandering children home. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## NEW YEAR CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Our glorious Lord and Saviour, as we step across the threshold into the New Year, we offer to thee the gratitude of our hearts for the abundant blessings that have enriched our lives through the year that has just reached its close. They are more than we can reckon, and we know that they are the gifts of Eternal Goodness.

Looking out toward the unknown future, we trust ourselves to thy unerring leadership and thy loving care. Help us to follow faithfully wheresoever thou mayest lead, even though the way brings us into places where human souls are tested to the utmost.

Give us a faith that takes firm hold upon Omnipotence; a faith that turns not back in the day of the hottest battle; a faith that never doubts in the darkest hour that God lives and the right will triumph.

May we so live that even those who oppose us will not question our loyalty to Christ. God of holiness, keep us pure in heart, so pure that we shall have the unfailing vision of

thyself. We desire to be blessed with an increasing love for thee. Oh! the unfathomable depths of our Father's love! Lord, give us a deeper understanding of the mystery of Calvary. Teach us more fully the meaning of Divine sacrifice.

Father, give us work to do, inspiring work, that shall rouse our spiritual enthusiasm to its highest mark; hard work, that shall test our courage and our strength.

Help us to serve after the manner of Jesus our Lord; to deal kindly with little children; to lighten the burdens of the aged; to bring new courage into the home of poverty; to let thy sunlight into the hearts of the sick and the suffering; to speak Christ's wondrous message of consolation to those who are under the shadow of bereavement; to give the handclasp of real friendship to the discouraged; to visit the prisoner in his loneliness; to be a brother to the social outcast; to champion the cause of the oppressed; to manifest the tenderness and strength of the Christ spirit to all those whose lives we touch.

We pray that the kingdom of God may come and that the will of God may be done on earth as it is in heaven; that the people of God may witness more faithfully concerning the great salvation that is in Jesus Christ; that the great missionary enterprise may be pushed forward with militant zeal and consecrated vigor until the farthest limits of our earth shall rejoice in the knowledge of our Lord.

We pray that the Church may be blessed with a wider social vision and that it may enter into the work of social reconstruction in the very spirit of the Master. We pray that justice may be rendered in the realm of industry, that the causes which produce vice and crime may be removed, that our cities may be cleansed, that throughout all our borders we may possess the righteousness that exalteth a nation. God of infinite mercy, forgive our sins! How much thou hast to forgive in us! May thy spirit dwell in us and preserve us from all evil! Let the beauty of thy holiness be upon us! We cannot see through the mists that veil the future, but we go forward unafraid, for thou art our God, the God to whom we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## GENERAL NEW YEAR PETITIONS

Eternal God, we thank thee that the bounty of thy promise more than covers all our need. Every need has been antici-

pated, and we cannot bring to thee a burden which takes thee by surprise. All our wants meet their satisfaction in thy fullness; thy bread and thy water give our souls a continual feast. We pray that the Holy Spirit may lead us into this ministry of thy grace. May we discover the provision which thou hast made for them that love thee. May we not be content to loiter in the outer halls of worship, but may we pass into the inner room of communion and abide with thee in the secret place. Thou hast graciously revealed thyself in Jesus Christ our Lord. May that revelation become the light of our life, and may his finished work accomplish its perfect end in us. Mercifully inspire our worship. May everything be filled with holy power. May all the ministries of the sanctuary be vessels which thou canst use in consecrated service. Refresh the spirit of those who are faint. Rekindle the love of those who have grown cold. Convert the indifferent, and lead them into spiritual devotion, and into a passion for the things of the kingdom. May we all have a new vision of the Saviour, and may our feet be quickened in the heavenly way. Graciously remember our absent friends, and may they share the blessing which will be given to us. Visit the sick chamber, and reveal the intimacy of thy love to those who are burdened with weakness or pain. May we all find that in our Father's love there is infinite resource and may we all have share in the great inheritance. Amen.—Rev. J. H. Jowett, D.D.

## PRAYER FOR THE OPENING YEAR

O Lord our God, the Ancient of Days and the Everlasting Father, at the beginning of the New Year we come to thee who alone knowest the future of thy children. We are setting out upon our voyage ignorant as to whether it will be among the dangers of rocks or in the open sea. As mariners correct the compass of their ship before they venture out upon the deep, so we entreat thee to correct our consciences, and to keep our souls sensitive to the mysterious movements of thy Spirit. We know not what is awaiting us, and we appeal to thee against life's surprises. May we be so certain of thee as to be unafraid of life.

We leave behind us the graves of our beloved dead. Once so strong and willing, they are now silent and at rest. We pray thee especially for those upon whose hearts has come

the chill of loneliness, and who in weak hours are afraid of the solitary path. When we remember our dead we will remember thee, and set our hope in that life everlasting which thou hast promised to all who follow thee.

We remember also our friends far and near upon the earth, and we entreat of thee to reveal thyself to each of them according to their need. Encourage, comfort, strengthen and guide them. Give them to know that no service is in vain and no suffering is wasted, but for those who know thy love all things are gain.

For ourselves we entreat thee that none of us may be content with resolutions at this season. Change our flickering fires of good desire into the steady flame of responsibility accepted and faith kept. Set us free from all bonds that we may move forward unhindered into the open future. Set our feet upon the neck of all temptation; fortify us with the vision of thyself, and let it bring gladness and courage to our spirits. Grant unto us righteous anger against wrong, and pity, and forgiveness, and love that heals all wounds. While we pray for resolution and iron steadfastness of will, we beseech thee to preserve within us great tenderness of heart. Go with us through the days, revealing thyself in the familiarity of Jesus Christ, our Brother and Fellow-Traveler. Shine forth upon us in the mystery of his divine power and love that are so mighty to save. So may we walk in quietness and in honor, as those who know the secret of the Lord. For the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour, Amen.—JOHN KELMAN, D.D.

## NEW YEAR PRAYER

Grant, O God, now that we have entered on another year —a year of the revelation of the right-hand of thy glory; a year that thou art making wonderful among all the years of time—grant that for the sake of the truth and for the sake of holiness we may lift ourselves up to a higher life. May we be called to act from nobler motives. May we endeavor to take a clearer and truer conception of duty. And may we, for Christ's sake, and for the sake of his cause, consecrate ourselves afresh to thee. Thou, O God, canst lift us up; and only thou canst do it. All our courage will be in vain, and all our good resolutions will sleep as sentinels overwearied at their post, and we shall be surprised and destroyed

if thou art not vigilant for us, and thy grace is not exercised in our behalf. We stand importuning, not because thou needst to be importuned and art reluctant to bestow mercies upon us. We know not why we do it, except that thou hast told us to ask for such things as we desire.

We beseech thee to grant to every one in thy presence that blessing which cannot be mistaken; that voice which can come only from him that speaketh to the inmost consciousness. Grant to every one the incoming of thy Spirit. Grant to every one a holy joy, a heavenly gladness. May every one in thy presence to-night (to-day) feel that he has been the guest of God himself. And grant that all our offerings of song, and prayer, and meditation, and instruction, on this occasion, may be acceptable in thy sight, and beneficial to us. We ask it through Jesus, the Redeemer. Amen.—B.

## NEW YEAR PRAYER

O Eternal Father, with whom a thousand years are as one day, and one day as a thousand years, look down in compassion on us, whose years are as a shadow that declineth, and give to us once again the assurance of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. May we turn away from the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, and by lowly surrender become one with those who do thy will, and so abide forever. Help us to walk by faith, as seeing the invisible; and so manifest thyself to us that we may no longer have fear of death or change, but rest in Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. For all that the year that is past has brought us of good, accept our grateful thanksgiving; help us to trace thy love and thy guiding hand through it all. Forgive all our sins and failures, and pour out thy Holy Spirit upon us, that henceforth we may live for thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God, our Father, so rich in love, so plenteous in mercy, so quick to forgive, we do not approach thee as an earthly subject creeps cowering to a tyrant's throne, but as an erring child kneels trustingly at the foot of a mother that loves and understands. Hear us as we lift up hands suppliant for mercy and strength.

Another year is gone, irretrievably gone, and its record of victories and defeats, of honor and of shame, rests forever with thee. Pardon our many lapses from duty; forgive, we implore thee, the sins that have murdered our peace and established within our souls a reign of terror; deal gently with our wanderings from the stony path of service; remove the sting from any cruel words we've spoken; soothe the thousand heartaches begotten of our thoughtless deeds; and dim within us the memory of everything that rankles. These are all of the past, irrevocable, Father, and we commit them to thy judgment assured that thou wilt temper justice with mercy.

As we cross the threshold of a new year give us the full measure of joy that is ours for all that in the months past we've said or done in ministry to those who have needed us, and with this joy as an earnest of what the future holds bid us with bold confidence turn toward our tasks. Vouchsafe unto us the wisdom that draws profit from mistakes. Help us to endure hardships without murmur, to be patient under misjudgment, and to requite hate with love. Let no fear of man drive us from our post, and no cowardice restrain us when our Lord cries "Forward!" Teach us the saintliness of kind words, and the winsome graciousness of smiles. Win us to loyalty in all that touches the Christ-like, and purge from us whatever is base. Give us a vision that is world-wide in its sweep, yet forbid that we should be blind to need at our door. Create in us a fervent desire to live clean; stifle the selfish yearning within our breasts; give us the spirit of toleration for him who tramples upon our beliefs; and fire our souls with a passion for serving our fellows. Renew for us each day the blessedness that springs from toil. Intensify our sense of human fellowship. Broaden the range of our sympathies. In all things hold us willingly submissive to thy will so that when the year has rounded out its course we may have the joy of knowing that our days passed not in vain. Amen!—L. L. Rice.

## NEW YEAR PETITIONS

O Lord our God, we offer thee most hearty thanks for the mercies which have crowned our year. They cannot be numbered. Day by day thou hast appointed our way. Ills that we have feared have vanished. There has been among us

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sorrow and sometimes pain, and death has not been absent from our great circle more than from others, but thy consolations have not failed. Thy comforts have been inexpressibly lovely. Thy loving-kindness has not failed. For all these things we thank thee. Have we sinned? Thou hast forgiven us. Have we had strong temptation? The promise has been fulfilled that we should not be tempted beyond our power to bear. And now, our Father, because we so value these tokens of thy grace we dare to ask that they may be continued still. Take not thy favor from us. Still comfort us. Still console. Still help us in our struggle against sin. Let mercy follow us through all this rolling year. Breathe thy loving Spirit even again into our weary souls and aid us as we think how we may glorify thee. For Christ's sake. Amen.

## SCRIPTURAL SALUTATIONS FOR OPENING OF SERVICE

(With many ministers the first utterance in the service is a Scripture Salutation, or opening sentence. From Sunday to Sunday the pastor should seek variety in these expressions. The appropriateness of the following is manifest.)

1. "How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

"They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

"For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light." Ps. 36:7-10.

2. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; and his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Ps. 100:4, 5.

3. "O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart." Ps. 95:7, 8.

4. "The Lord is nigh unto them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them

that fear him; he also will hear their cry and will save them."

5. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint. Isa. 40:31.

"Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart." Ps. 27:14.

6. "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

"He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

"He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." Ps. 24:3, 4, 5.

7. "Sing unto the Lord a new song and his praise in the congregation of saints. Let Israel rejoice in him that made him; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King." "Praise ye the Lord."

8. "Praise waiteth for thee, O God in Zion, unto thee shalt the vow be performed. O thou that heareth prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

"We will lift up our eyes unto the hills whence cometh our help. Our help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth."

9. "God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and in truth.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

10. "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion." "Praise ye the Lord."

11. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem."

"Blessed are they that dwell in thy house, they will be still praising thee."

12. "Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.

"I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

"For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

"O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee." Ps. 84:9-12.

13. "Draw nigh unto God and he will draw nigh unto you.

"Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled."

14. "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple." Ps. 27:4.

15. "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will we direct our prayer unto thee, and will look up." Ps. 5:3.

16. "This is the day which the Lord hath made, therefore will we rejoice and be glad in it." . . . "Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion unto thee shalt the vow be performed. O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come."

## OFFERTORY PRAYERS

(It requires a good deal of thought and preparation for a minister to give his offertory prayers, at the time of taking the collections, variety and appropriateness. We place some such brief prayers here.)

1. O thou who givest us every good and perfect gift, help us to realize the blessed obligation of giving. Help us to estimate aright our partnership with thee, and share the burden of the world's need. Help us to bring our whole tithe into the storehouse, and test thy promise of abundant supply.

2. Out of thy fullness have we all received, and grace for grace—one measure of blessing upon another. Receive the offerings we bring thee with gratitude for all thy benefits. Use them for the extension of thy kingdom in the world, and bless us as we bring them. We ask in the name of Christ. Amen.

3. Help us to remember that now as of old the Son of Man looks upon a sorrowing and dying world with pity unutterable, and that he asks us to give the Bread of Life.

Receive the offerings we bring thee and use them for the salvation of men. Amen.

4. O Lord our Lord, who art King of all the earth; accept, of thine infinite goodness, the offerings of thy people, which, in obedience to thy commandment, in honor of thy name, and with a free will and joyful heart, we yield and dedicate to thee: and grant unto us thy blessing, that the same being devoted to thy service, may be used for thy glory, and for the welfare of thy Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

5. Help us to remember that the first act of worship offered to the new-born Christ was that of giving. When they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Receive and bless our offerings, bless us as we bring them, and use them for the extension of thy kingdom in the world. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.—H.

6. Gracious God, we thank thee for thy bounteous provision for our needs. We adore and praise thee for thy Son Jesus, who, though rich, became poor that we through his poverty might inherit eternal riches. In his name we dedicate these offerings to thee. Amen.

## PRAYERS ON RECEIVING MISSIONARY OFFERINGS

1. Almighty God and gracious Father, the source of all our blessings; we pray thee to make us sensible of our duty to thee in the use of the gifts intrusted to us. If our material resources increase, may there be a like increase in our generosity. If our resources diminish, we beseech thee to save us from the sin of beginning our economy at the Church. Help us to reduce our personal comforts and gratifications, and to make ready sacrifices for the sake of giving toward the spread of thy kingdom and the salvation of men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. Almighty God, from whom all good things do come; give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to those whom thou hast intrusted with riches, that they, as faithful stewards, may dispense them in the service of thy kingdom for the increase thereof. We ask in Christ's name. Amen.

3. Almighty God, who alone art the Author and Giver of all good things, grant unto thy people a willing mind, that

of all thou givest them they may surely give a portion to thee, and may offer to thee free-will offerings with an holy worship. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PETITIONS AFTER THE SCRIPTURE READING

(We have taken note of the words used by several ministers after their reading of the Scriptures in the church service. It is well to use variety. One minister says:)

"May God's Spirit give us understanding hearts."

Another says: "May God's Spirit bless this lesson to our needs."

Another says: "The Lord bless to us this reading from his own holy Word."

Another says: "The Lord follow with his blessing this reading from his own holy Word."

Others say: "May these words be blessed to our souls, meeting our present spiritual needs."

"May God write his Law upon our hearts."

"May God incline our hearts to keep his Law."

"May the words read in our hearing be as food for our souls, even at this time. Amen."

"May the Word purge our hearts."

"May God bless his Word to our hearts."

"May the Lord add his blessing to the reading of his Word."

"Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it in pure and right-loving hearts, for they shall inherit life eternal."

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

"Sanctify us in thy truth; thy Word is truth."

"May God bless the hearing of his Word."

"Lord, have mercy upon us and incline our hearts to keep this Law."

"May the Lord bless to our needs this reading of his Word."

"May the Lord quicken our hearts to hear and obey his Word."

"Incline our hearts, O Lord, to the daily use of thy Word."

"May the Lord honor his own Word."

## SENTENCES THAT MAY BE USED WHEN TAKING COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

"Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

"To do good and to communicate forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."

"If there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, Ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good."

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

"For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God."

"God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

"Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."

"Charge them that are rich in this world, That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate."

"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

"Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy."

"Go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the

poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me."

"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

"He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack."

"If thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul: then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness shall be as the noonday."

"He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he."

"He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker; but he that honoreth him hath mercy on the poor."

"She stretcheth out her hand to the poor, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy."

"Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also will cry himself, but shall not be heard."

"As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor; his righteousness remaineth for ever."

## SENTENCES THAT MAY BE USED WHEN TAKING THE MISSIONARY OFFERING

"The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

"Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase, so shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

"Give the Lord the honor due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts."

"How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach except they be sent?"

"Ask of me and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."

"Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth."

"I will be exalted among the heathen; I will be exalted in the earth."

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him might not perish, but have everlasting life."

"And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee."

"Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the Lord, come near and bring sacrifices and thank-offerings into the house of the Lord."

"Vow and pay unto the Lord your God: let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared."

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him." "Freely ye have received, freely give."

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

"Trust in the Lord and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."

"Give unto the Lord thy God, according as the Lord thy God hath blessed thee."

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver."

"There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

"He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure,

pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom."

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

"All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth; go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

## ASCRIPTIONS OF GLORY

1. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us; unto him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end.

2. Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.

3. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

4. Now unto the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen or can see: to him be honor and power everlasting.

5. Now unto the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

6. And now to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, three Persons and one God, be ascribed by us, and by the whole Church, as is most due, the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

7. Unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost, be ascribed in the Church all honor and glory, might, majesty, dominion, and blessing, now, henceforth, and for ever.

## PETITIONS IN SCRIPTURAL LANGUAGE

Give ear, O Lord, unto our prayer, and attend to the voice of our supplication. Make us poor in spirit, that ours may

be the kingdom of heaven. Make us to mourn for sin, that we may be comforted by thy grace. Make us meek, that we may inherit the earth. Make us to hunger and thirst after righteousness, that we may be filled therewith. Make us merciful, that we may obtain mercy. Make us pure in heart, that we may see thee. Make us peacemakers, that we may be called thy children. Make us willing to be persecuted for righteousness' sake, that our reward may be great in heaven.

## ANOTHER FORM

Hear, O God, our humble supplications. Give us to know Christ and his life, that the same mind which was in him may be in us; that we may be in the world as he was in the world. Give us to know Christ and his death, that we may not glory save in his cross, whereby the world is crucified unto us and we unto the world. Give us to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, that like as he was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we also may walk in newness of life. Give us to know Christ and his ascension, that our conversation may be in heaven, and that we may seek those things which are above, where he sitteth at thy right hand. Give us to know Christ and his second coming, that our lamps may be burning and our loins girt, and we ourselves as servants waiting for their master. Give us to know Christ as Judge of quick and of dead, that we may give in our account with joy, and may be welcomed by him to the kingdom of the Father.

## VARIED PULPIT PETITIONS

Lord, deliver us from vacancy and vagrancy. Our empty minds rove and find no resting-place. We would be filled with thee, and be ever at home with thee. The universe is too big for our aimless wanderings to arrive at any fit spot. We want guidance. Take possession of our disheveled spirit. Reign in our wayward hearts. Animate and regulate our disordered nature. Gather up the scraps of our thought and feeling; purify them; and fuse them in one. Our fundamental hunger is for thee. Saviour, show us the way through the fog to the Father's embrace. Father, make us all worth while. Begin with these boys and girls, with even the very

little children. Let there be no wasted years, scarred by sin and crippled by wasted opportunity. If we have passed our youth still drifting, oh! arrest us now! Thou canst reconstruct even wrecked lives. Enrich us all with thine indwelling. Make us all comrades of God—and of one another. Take away all enmities and envies, and whatever makes the heart sore and our lives futile. Distill thy love in every breast, and generate thy strength in every weary frame and feeble soul. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.—Amen.

## PRAYER FOR SUNDAY MORNING

O God, we rejoice that to-day no burden of work will be upon us and that our body and soul are free to rest. We thank thee that of old this day was hallowed by thee for all who toil, and that from generation to generation the weary sons of men have found it a shelter and a breathing space. We pray for thy peace on all our brothers and sisters who are glad to cease from labor and to enjoy the comfort of their home and the companionship of those whom they love. Forbid that the pressure of covetousness or thoughtless love of pleasure rob any who are worn of their divine right of rest. Grant us wisdom and self-control that our pleasures may not be follies, lest our leisure drain us more than our work. Teach us that in the mystic unity of our nature our body cannot rest unless our soul has repose, that so we may walk this day in thy presence in tranquillity of spirit, taking each joy as thy gift, and on the morrow return to our labor refreshed and content.—Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch.

## PRAYER FOR SUNDAY EVENING

O Lord, we lift our souls to thee in awe of the eventide. Above the tree-tops hang the heavens in their glory, but above the stars art thou and the eternal silence. We rejoice that in the quiet of thy day of rest our spirits have been attuned to the melodies of thy beauty. We bless thee for every word of solemn truth which has entered our hearts, for every touch of loving hand that has comforted us, for every opportunity we have had to speak some message from our heart to the heart of our brothers. Forgive us if any hours have been wasted on profitless things that have brought us no satisfaction, or if we have dragged our dusty cares into

thy Sacred Day and made the holy common. We pray for thy blessing on all who have come near to us this day, on all who have brought us strength, on all who are sad and hungry for thee, on all thy great humanity in its sin and beauty. May our last waking thought be a benediction for our fellows and in our sleep may we still be with thee.—REV. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH.

## INVOCATION PRAYER (1)

Our Father! we are thy children, come home this morning to the place of invitation, the place made sacred by the fulfillment of thy promises ten thousand times to us. Thou hast made our wants to grow, that thou mayst have the privilege every day of supplying them, and that we might be brought into the sweetest connection with thee, by taking, day by day, our daily bread from thine hand. We come to-day, then, to take what thou shalt give us; and as thou art our bread and the water of life, the life, the breath, the all in all, grant us Thyself and we are supplied. Help us to read thy Word, to sing thy praises, to commune with thee in prayer, to speak and to hear from thee. We ask it for Christ's sake. Amen. —B.

## INVOCATION PRAYER (2)

Our heavenly Father, we are thy children. Although we are weak and sinful, we are yet thy children, preserved by thy power, cared for by thy love, redeemed by thy grace. We beseech thee, this morning, that thou wilt unveil our face that we may behold thee. Thou art near us and around about us, but we are dark-minded and do not discern the traces of our God until thou dost teach us, and then with sensible comfort we behold thee where thou wert not to our seeming before. Grant this morning that we may have this inward resurrection, this effulgence from thee that we may behold it. Draw us near to thee by all our affections. May we worship thee; may we trust thee; may we be able to praise and rejoice before thee. May thy Word stand upladen with divine meaning to us; may all our exercises of prayer and our singing together be in the sweet fellowship of a common love and experience. May this be a day blessed to our souls. We ask it for Christ's sake. Amen.—B.

## SUGGESTIVE PETITIONS

Lord, we would enter with thee into those interior places where God dwells and manhood takes true shape. Too long have we lived out on the edges. We want to get into the heart of life. We would walk with Jesus in closest intimacy. No more for us the paltry satisfaction of the husks of life; no more frittering away our energies on things that perish with the using. Father in heaven, we would walk with thee until we can assimilate pain instead of resenting it; until sorrow, when it does come, shall prove our meat and not our poison; until all the experiences of life shall yield up their secret in transforming power and nourishment of souls. So would we cease to be moral pygmies and spiritual starvelings and begin to be thine intelligent children—rich in wisdom, and in strength to help others along the way.

## EVENING PRAYER

(These petitions are as appropriate for a Sunday evening service as they would be in the home or in the closet.)

O Lord, we praise thee for our sister, the Night, who folds all the tired folk of the earth in her comfortable robe of darkness and gives them sleep. Release now the strained limbs of toil and smooth the brow of care. Grant us the refreshing draught of forgetfulness that we may rise in the morning with a smile on our face. Comfort and ease those who toss wakeful on a bed of pain, or whose aching nerves crave sleep and find it not. Save them from evil or despondent thoughts in the long darkness, and teach them so to lean on thy all-pervading life and love, that their souls may grow tranquil and their bodies, too, may rest. And now through thee we send Good Night to all our brothers and sisters near and far, and pray for peace upon all the earth.

Our Father, as we turn to the comfort of our rest, we remember those who must wake that we may sleep. Bless the guardians of peace who protect us against men of evil will, the watchers who save us from the terrors of fire, and all the many who carry on through the hours of the night the restless commerce of men on sea and land. We thank thee

for their faithfulness and sense of duty. We pray for thy pardon if our covetousness or luxury makes their nightly toil necessary. Grant that we may realize how dependent the safety of our loved ones and the comforts of our life are on these our brothers, that so we may think of them with love and gratitude and help to make their burden lighter.

Accept the work of this day, O Lord, as we lay it at thy feet. Thou knowest its imperfections, and we know. Of the brave purposes of the morning only a few have found their fulfillment. We bless thee that thou art no hard taskmaster, watching grimly the stint of work we bring, but the Father and Teacher of men who rejoices with us as we learn to work. We have naught to boast before thee, but we do not fear thy face. Thou knowest all things and thou art love. Accept every right intention however brokenly fulfilled, but grant that ere our life is done we may under thy tuition become true master workmen, who know the art of a just and valiant life. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

O God, we pray for thy Church, which is set to-day amid the perplexities of a changing order, and face to face with a great new task. We remember with love the nurture she gave to our spiritual life in its infancy, the tasks she set for our growing strength, the influence of the devoted hearts she gathers, the steadfast power for good she has exerted. When we compare her with all other human institutions, we rejoice, for there is none like her. But when we judge her by the mind of her Master, we bow in pity and contrition. Oh, baptize her afresh in the life-giving spirit of Jesus! Grant her a new birth, though it be with a travail of repentance and humiliation. Bestow upon her a more imperious responsiveness to duty, a swifter compassion with suffering, and an utter loyalty to the will of God. Put upon her lips the ancient gospel of her Lord. Help her to proclaim boldly the coming of the Kingdom of God and the doom of all that resist it. Fill her with the prophets' scorn of tyranny, and with a Christ-like tenderness for the heavy-laden and down-trodden. Give her faith to espouse the cause of the people, and in their hands that grope after freedom and light to recognize the bleeding

hands of the Christ. Bid her cease from seeking her own life, lest she lose it. Make her valiant to give up her life to humanity, that like her crucified Lord she may mount by the path of the cross to a higher glory.—REV. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH.

## SCRIPTURAL CONFESSION OF SIN

(Such expressions are always appropriate in making confession of sin. Few terms a minister can use are so appropriate.)

If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. Show us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation. Enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. Our transgressions are multiplied before thee and our sins testify against us. But with thee there is mercy, and plenteous redemption. Remember not the sins of our youth, nor our transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou us, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord. Cause us to hear thy loving-kindness; and to know the way wherein we should walk. Teach us to do thy will: for thou art our God. Hear thou from heaven, thy dwelling-place, and when thou hearest, forgive! Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SCRIPTURAL EXPRESSIONS OF ADORATION

(We do not make enough of adoration in our prayers, public and private. Our people would be more reverent if we adored God more. For this no expressions are more appropriate than many found in the Scriptures.)

Blessed be thou, O Lord God of Israel, our Father forever. Thine, O God, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty: for all that is in heaven and earth is thine. Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as Head over all. Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all. And thine is the power and might, and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious Name.

## ANOTHER FORM OF ADORATION

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come! Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord, God almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy Name? For thou only art holy. For all nations shall come and worship before thee.

## UNREST AND DISCIPLINE

Blessed be God for making us uneasy. We devoutly recognize thee in the tumults of our time, and of our own breasts. We thank thee for begetting in our hearts this insatiable hunger, and for spurring mankind to quest and question. Thou reigning Redeemer, who didst burst the bonds of death, we rejoice that thou dost goad us out of our stagnation and dost equip us with the abundant life, with all its costs of thorny problems and vexing novelties. Keep us tenderly and keenly aware of thy presence in and around us thus. Make us sensitive to the developing revelation of thyself in personal experience and in events. And make us responsive. Give us the thrill of active partnership with the living God. Saturate us with thyself. Take away our moral ugliness. Straighten out our twists—even if it does hurt. Cure us of all tricks and perversities. Beguile us into the ways of wisdom. Entice us into the joys of uncalculating service. Discipline the child in us, and make us men, foursquare and large, strong and tender, passionate but pure, each after his own native bent, but all like Christ. Amen.

## PASTORAL PETITIONS

Our God and Father, our Saviour and Friend; stretch out thine hand to help us who walk in the shades of ignorance. Thou knowest all, and we know so little! Impart to us all of thyself that our nature can contain and use. What we cannot know or fathom give us grace to leave to thee, and not worry about it. Keep us from distracting our souls over problems beyond our powers. Make us sensible that we are complete in thee, not in our own fragmentary life. Father,

enlarge our hearts! Grant us vision. Endow us with thine own perspective, and thine own exhaustless patience. Make us so rich in thyself that in dealing with others we can afford to be bountiful, like thyself. Let sweet humility become our sanctuary. Take away our arrogance, our sense of self-importance, our unlovely self-conceit. Make us forbearing and gentle with others' frailties and appreciative of others' values. Extract the thorns from our lives. Give us the velvet touch. We want to serve but are not fit. Our self-absorption makes us so stupid! Sharpen our wits in devoted loyalty to thee and love for all. Bring us into the high joy of entering others' lives on every side with health and healing. Make people our chief interest—and our deep concern. Amen.

## A MORNING PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, in reverence we bow before thee; and as we close our eyes to earthly objects, may the realities of the spiritual life appear before us. Thou didst cover us with the darkness; yet we slept as in the shadow of thy wing. Thou hast opened for us the gates of the morning, and we rise to praise thee. As the light of the sun illumines the earth, so may the light of the Sun of righteousness shine in our hearts this day. The memory of past mercies inspires us to hope for thy blessing to-day. Reveal thyself to us in the varied experiences of life that shall be presented to us. May we not be so immersed in the temporalities of life as to forget thee, nor so far removed in thought from our fellow men as to forget their needs. Reveal thyself to us through thy Spirit and through thy Word, so that in all experiences of the day we may recognize thine omnipotent hand. Make us glad when the evening shall come, because we have walked with thee, and as we look into the faces of our fellows grant that we shall see immortal souls for whom Christ died. So may we spend the time in loving, helpful ministry.

May thy presence and care be real to us all the day; and, when it is spent, may we say within our hearts: "Thy forgiveness and favor was new in the morning and fresh again in the evening." Assure us of thy salvation and providential care.

We ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Rev. E. E. Richardson, Ph.D.

## PETITIONS FOR THE MORNING PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, we thank thee for this endearing name. Thou art not a God aloof and distant, but revealed in Jesus Christ as near and friendly. We take our places, not as sundered and desolate, but fused and cemented—first with thee and then with each other, through the Redeemer. Under thy wing we come together as a brotherhood, endowed by thy Spirit with a vital experience of a common life and genial fellowship. We thank thee for the lives of our comrades who have passed on and gone before. We pray also for the living, for each other; and we thank thee for the bonds that unite us. May our fellowship be pure, real and helpful, animated by the redeeming Spirit. Give us joy in each other. Keep our hearts warm and our hands helpful. Make us genuinely companionable. Restrain those personal eccentricities which mar unity. Infuse a kindly spirit. When tempted to criticize and find fault, give us grace to hold our tongues. Make us whole-hearted, and mutually helpful, moved with a Christly compassion and a loving appreciation. We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## REIGN THOU OVER US

Come thou, O God, and reveal thy power. Take possession of this restless world and transform it by thy grace. Set up the banner of the cross in every land and in every heart. Direct the movements of governments, enter the marts of trade, sanctify our institutions of learning and fill the earth with righteousness and peace.

Come thou in thy majesty and love and reign over us, even us, in our need. Establish thy throne in our hearts. We are weary of having our own way. Thy way is truth, thy will is holiness, thy constraint is liberty, thy law is love. Make us willing subjects of thine. May thy kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as in heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.—DWIGHT E. MARVIN, D.D.

## DESIRE FOR COMMUNION

Eternal God our Father, we bow before thee, feeling that we are one in the common need, and humbly praying that we may be one in partaking of thy grace. We bless thee that the

door of mercy is always open to those who seek thy face. Thou dost not turn us away, even though our robe is torn and soiled, and we have lost the ring of sonship, and are burdened with shame. It is thy gracious promise that thou wilt give the best robe in exchange for the worst, and thou wilt wash away the tokens of our shame, and thou wilt restore us to our lost state. We plead thy promises, and we present our needs. We are unworthy to be called thy children, for we have brought dishonor on the family name. But we would hide in the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour, in whose grace we seek our salvation. Graciously receive us into the innermost circle of communion. May the desire to know thee reign over every other desire and may every quest in our life be subject to a deep longing to be at home with thee. We pray that we may all find our appointed places in thy service, and to this end wilt thou bless the ministries of public worship. May they help us to leave behind what we ought never to have carried with us, and may they help us to find what we ought never to have lost. May thy spirit control our minds, and may all our purposes be the fruit of thy light. Make us mindful of one another, and in seeking one another's good may we enter more deeply into the fellowship of the Holy Ghost. Let thy Word speak to us with power. Let thy promise inspire us with holy hope. May this house prove to be the house of God, and the very gate of heaven. Amen.—Rev. J. H. Jowett, D.D.

## PENITENCE AND PARDON

Most Holy God, who enlightenest every man that cometh into the world, enlighten our hearts, we pray thee, with the light of thy grace, that we may fully know our sins and our shortcomings, and may confess them with true sorrow and contrition of heart. Unveil thy love to us, so that in its clear shining we may behold the sin of our rebellion, and may turn unto thee in humility and fervent devotion. Deliver us, we pray thee, from the tyranny of evil habit. Save us from acknowledging any sovereignty but thine. Keep us in sight of the great white throne, and may thy judgments determine all our ways. Defend us when we are tempted to fields of transgression. Protect us from the allurements which assail the senses, and which entice us, through our fleshly desires, into impure delights. Loose us from the bonds of vanity and

pride, and remove every perverting prejudice which blinds our vision. Impart unto us the grace of simplicity. May our worship be perfectly candid and sincere. Give us a healthy recoil from all hypocrisy, from all mere acting in thy Holy Presence. Quicken our perceptions that we may realize thy presence and feel the awe of the unseen. Lead us, we pray thee, to the fountain of life. Quicken our souls so that we may apprehend that which concerns our peace.—Amen.

## A LENTEN PRAYER

O God our Father, we thank thee for the revelation of thy redeeming power in Jesus Christ; for his unfolding life in infancy, boyhood and fullness of man's estate. We thank thee especially for his embodiment of true manhood as teacher, physician, and preacher, and that in this life of service he disclosed thy love to man, bringing hope to the hopeless, and thy redemption to the nations of the earth. Enable us, O Lord, to follow in the way where Christ leads; for his own name's sake, we ask it. Amen.

## INVOCATION PRAYER

Holy Saviour, Fountain of all blessing, the Word of the eternal Father, be pleased to sow the good seed of thy Word in our hearts and water it with the dew of thy divine Spirit. While we exercise ourselves in the day and night may we be like a tree planted by the waterside, bringing forth, in all times and seasons, the fruits of a holy conversation. May we never walk in the way of sinners nor have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Help us to find delight in thy commandments and to drink of the river of thy pleasures. Deliver us from the grief that saps the mind, and from the burden of needless care. Enable us to witness for thee in the strength of a serene, self-sacrificing life. And when this life is ended may we have our portion in the congregation of the righteous, and may we be able to stand upright in the judgment through the supporting arm of thy mercy, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.

## INVOCATION PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either

we desire or deserve; pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask. Incline our feet into the way of thy commandments. May thy will become our delight. Enrich our apprehension of thy grace, that we may worship thee in more devoted service. Lead us into the secrets of thy truth. May we find our truest home in thy holy fellowship. Save us from dwelling in the outer courts, satisfied with the husks of devotion. Bring us to the table of thy grace and feed us with hidden manna, so that in the strength of heavenly food we may be able to serve thee in faithfulness. May thy Holy Spirit possess this service. May his power be realized in all our communion. Let all the hidden springs of the soul be unsealed, and quicken every power which will enable us to lay hold of the things which thou hast prepared for them that love thee. Amen.

## AN EVENING PRAYER

Father of all comfort, speak to us now as the shadows lengthen and give us thy peace. Oft amid the varied experiences of the day thou didst beckon us to follow thee, but our eyes were holden; oft thou didst call us by the still, small voice of thy Spirit, but our ears were dull of hearing. Pardon, we beseech thee, our negligence and ill-doing, our unfaithfulness and self-indulgence. Blot out our sins as thou dost blot out the morning mists with the rising sun. Calm our restlessness and give us peace.

When the silent hours of night shall come, overshadow us with thy watchful guardianship, and when the day shall break, take thou our hands and guide us on.

Abide with us throughout each passing day. Make each tomorrow of life better and holier than its yesterday.

We prefer no claim for thy grace, but our need; we present no reason for thy favor, but thy mercy; we offer no plea for thy strength, but our helplessness; we depend on no merit, but that of Jesus Christ. Hast thou not declared thy love in giving him as an offering for sin? Hast thou not revealed thy kindness in uplifting strength and protecting care? Hast thou not met every need of our life and overshadowed our souls with the fathomless current of thy compassion?

By the greatness of thy power, by the surety of thy promises,

by the sacrifice of Gethsemane and Calvary, by the victory of thy Son over death and the grave, breathe upon us a benediction of strength and peace.

We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.—DWIGHT E. MARVIN, D.D.

## A MISSIONARY PRAYER

Our Saviour and Lord, who didst give us the great commission to disciple all nations, we bless thee that the fresh annals of thy Kingdom pour floods of light into our minds, floods of love into our hearts and floods of resolutions into our wills. We bless thee that thy spirit of service, of love for all who have need, a rising tide that sweeps around the world under the attractive power of thine uplifted sacrifice, penetrates all lands, all classes, all religions. We rejoice that it moves men, women and children; leads them to live in the slums, the tropics, the frozen North, and all for thy name's sake and for thy children. And thou openest all doors of opportunity to us, every nation and tribe. And now native converts are uplifted by the world-wide impulse and freely spend out of their poverty and their burdened days to tell the story of the Cross. The national life of heathen lands feels and manifests the gracious influence. Nations are born as in a day. The glorious visions of Isaiah and Ezekiel and Daniel and John, and thine own, almighty Saviour, are becoming history before wondering eyes.

Almighty Captain of our salvation, inflame our hearts also with thy compelling love. Enroll us every one in thy forces militant to march, and fight, and suffer hardship, and sing exultant triumph, blessing thy holy name that we may share thy sufferings for the lost world, thy labors, and, by thy grace, the everlasting joy of our adorable, redeeming Lord. We ask in thine own name. Amen.—H.

## PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND MISSIONS

O God, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the whole earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to them that are far off and to them that are nigh; grant that all men everywhere may see thee and find thee. Bring the nations into thy fold, and add the heathen to thine inheritance. O our Saviour, who didst

come to seek and to save the lost and to whom all power is given in heaven and in earth; hear our prayers for those who, at thy command, go forth to preach the Gospel to every creature, for those who help to heal the world's sicknesses, for all who teach young and old the saving truths of thy Word. Preserve them from all dangers; from perils by land and perils by water; from the deadly pestilence; from the violence of the persecutor; from doubt and impatience; from discouragement and discord; from all the devices of the powers of darkness. While they plant and water, O Lord, send thou the increase; gather in the multitudes of the heathen; and convert in Christian lands such as neglect thy great salvation; that thy name may be glorified, and thy Kingdom come, O Saviour of the world; to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory world without end. Amen.—H.

## A PRAYER FOR THE HEATHEN WORLD

O God, thou who art acquainted with the difficulties and longings of Christless souls everywhere and knowest their needs, thine all-embracing love extends to the lowliest and least of them and thou canst make the message of thy grace a message of hope. We pray thee be with all who dwell in lands unenlightened by the Gospel. Show thyself to them in their darkness and ignorance as a God of love and break the bonds of sin and superstition with which they are enthralled, and make them free. Cause them to respond to thy loving-kindness as it is revealed to them by the missionaries of the cross as they teach and preach thy Word, and heal and comfort those who are in want. Renew and sanctify thy people who dwell amid the shadows of false religions and hallow their homes with thy presence and power. Make thou thy servants who live in enlightened lands willing to support and encourage their fellow laborers and substitutes who carry the message of life to those who know it not. Bless those who give and those who receive and fill the whole earth with thy glory. Amen.—DWIGHT E. MARVIN, D.D.

## SCRIPTURAL PETITIONS FOR MISSION CHURCHES AND WORKERS

Almighty God, we beseech thee for all those who call upon the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who have

received grace and apostleship unto obedience for faith among all nations, beloved of God. For we long to impart unto them some spiritual gift, to the end that they may be comforted by the mutual faith both of them and us. By thy mercies may they present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto thee; that they may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Enrich them in all utterance and all knowledge, that there may be no divisions among them. We beseech thee, make thy power perfect in weakness. May these thy servants not weary in well-doing. Help them to suffer hardship as good soldiers of Christ Jesus. Make us, we pray thee, to be their brethren and companions in tribulation and in the Kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ. Make them faithful unto death, that thou mayest give them the Crown of Life. And may Grace, Mercy and Peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord be and abide with them forever. Amen and Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE WORLD'S REDEMPTION

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, we have beheld thy glory and thy goodness, shining in the face of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind. Send forth thy light and thy truth, we beseech thee, and draw all people that on earth do dwell into the fellowship of Jesus and the joy of thy salvation. O thou who hast so greatly loved the world, that thou hast given thine only-begotten Son, the Redeemer, communicate thy love to the heart of all believers, and inspire thy Church to preach the Gospel to every creature. O thou who rulest by thy providence over land and sea, defend and guide and bless the messengers of Christ. In danger, be their shield; in darkness, be their hope; enrich their word and work with wisdom, joy, and power, and let them gather souls for thee in the far fields white unto the harvest. O thou who by thy Holy Spirit workest wonders in secret, open the eyes that dimly look for light to see the day-star in Christ; open the minds that seek the unknown God to know their heavenly Father in Christ; open the hearts that hunger for righteousness to find eternal peace in Christ. Deliver the poor prisoners of ignorance and captives of idolatry. Break down the bars of error, and dispel the shadows of the ancient night. Lift up the gates, and let the King of Glory and the Prince of Peace come in. Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom! Strengthen

thy servants to pray and labor and wait for its appearing. Forgive our little faith and the weakness of our endeavor. Hasten the day when all nations shall be at peace in thee, and every land and every heart throughout the world shall bless the name of the Lord Jesus, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.—Rev. Henry van Dyke, D.D.

## PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we bring thee thanks, and a prayer, but most of all we bring thee ourselves. We find there is no peace for us save as we are yielded to thee; nor any lasting satisfaction save as we are living thy life—and doing thy work. We ask, each for himself and herself, what part hast thou assigned me in the tasks of thy kingdom? Prepare us for sacrifices. Open our eyes to see. Somehow, weave each one of us into thy majestic enterprise of saving the world. Constrain us henceforth to measure our privilege and duty, not by our comfort or our preferences, but by the needs of others and the calls of thy Providence. Quicken our sympathy for people around us and far away. Bless the work we are now trying to do—and add to it. Make us strong to do our work better and to take up new tasks. Let our hearts be brought to throb with concern for men until we cannot help assuming new burdens. So intensify our longings as to multiply our power. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS

Our Father who art in heaven; Who because thou didst so love the world gavest thine only begotten Son for its salvation, grant to us to have that new world-wide consciousness which was of old in thy heart and in the heart of thy Son our Saviour. He said that many should come from the East and the West to sit in thy Kingdom. He answered the petition of the heathen widow. He blessed the wicked woman of Samaria whose people, he said, knew not whom they worshiped. In his words the note of world-wide love and world-wide triumph constantly appears. He, the country carpenter who never touched in his short life the great ones of earth, loved by few, hated and slain by the leaders of Church and State, bade us make all nations his disciples. Many have dreamed such dreams, but he alone dreamed true. We bless thee that al-

ways that world-wide consciousness has flamed in some true hearts, like William Carey cobbling shoes and gazing at the map of the world which his Master was to conquer. We bless thee that in our days that world-wide consciousness leaps from heart to heart and from land to land as never before, and that to-day, led by countless consecrated missionaries, millions of converted heathen worship thee.

May this world-consciousness possess our hearts, making great our small souls, glorifying, as we daily walk with thee in the path of the world's salvation, our little lives, our petty opportunities, our weak endeavors, for Christ and the world's sake!—Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE HEATHEN

We thank thee for what thou hast wrought in these last hundred years for the world's salvation, and for the amazing acceleration of the Kingdom's progress now; for the thrill that runs through all the world at the name of Christ; for the changed tone of the secular press in every land; for innumerable testimonies to mission works from monarchs, diplomats, legislators, judges, generals, travelers of every sort, so that volumes are published to contain them. We see now with grateful hearts that thou hast indeed taught thy disciples to become fishers of men, and that the long night of toil breaks in a glad morning of such bursting nets that helpers are called for just to gather the trophies of thy grace. We rejoice that all science and art and forces of civilization work with thy missionaries, so that, like thee, they heal the sick and feed the hungry, leading the nations to desire our Gospel.

Great Saviour, take us, teach us, make us fishers of men; give us some happy, self-denying, toiling share in thy great work!

We bless thee, with hearts both shamed and exultant, for the present-day cloud of witnesses in heathen lands; for the new eleventh chapter of Hebrews even now a-writing; for the thousands of native martyrs in Africa, China, Manchuria, everywhere, tortured but not accepting deliverance, dying in torment, but calm, singing and praying, loyal and brave, preaching Christ to the end. We glory in the gifts and graces, so wonderful, so world wide, of heathen converts to our Lord. We long to know one by one that roll of names strange to our English minds, written in the life book of the

Lamb, gathered out of every nation and kindred and people and tongue in these recent years, of heathen, humble, poor, uncultured, often uncivilized, whose shining records of love, loyalty and service must win thy tenderest love, our holy Lord.

O holy Lord, look in pity upon us, children of light and leading and opportunity, who love and serve thee so falteringly, so selfishly, so half-heartedly, yet too often so self-applaudingly, and make us more like them!

## PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

We remember, our Saviour, that thou hast bidden us to pray for the coming of thy Father's Kingdom, in which his righteous will shall be done on earth as it is now done in heaven. We have treasured thy words, but we have forgotten their meaning, and thy great hope has grown dim in thy Church. We bless thee for the inspired souls of all ages who saw afar the shining city of God, and by faith left the profit of the present to follow their vision. We rejoice that to-day the hope of these lonely hearts is becoming the clear faith of missions. Help us, O Lord, in the courage of faith to seize what has now come so near, that the glad day of God may dawn at last. As we have mastered Nature that we might gain wealth, help us now to so master the social and spiritual relations of mankind that we may gain justice and righteousness and peace and a world of brotherhood. We ask in Christ's Name. Amen.

## WORLD BROTHERHOOD PRAYER

O God, of whom every fatherhood in heaven and on earth is named, we thank thee that we belong to thy great world-wide family, redeemed unto thyself out of every tribe and nation and people and tongue. Save us from all narrow thoughts of thy purpose; grant that we may not limit thy love by the measures of our own minds. Help us to claim as our brothers and sisters all who do the will of God. Help us to love all who love our Lord Christ in sincerity, and to keep with loyal hearts the Master's new commandment. Help us to be one in faith and service with all who believe in thee, and who are working to lift the world towards its true destiny. So may we know that we ourselves are compassed about with many comrades and helpers, and are no more strangers and

foreigners but fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God. Amen.

## THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

O Thou great Father of us all, we rejoice that at last we know thee. All our soul within us is glad because we need no longer cringe before thee as slaves of holy fear, seeking to appease thine anger by sacrifice and self-inflicted pain, but may come like little children, trustful and happy, to the God of love. Thou art the only true Father, and all the tender beauty of our human love is the reflected radiance of thy loving-kindness, like the moonlight from the sunlight, and testifies to the eternal passion that kindled it.

Grant us growth of spiritual vision, that with the passing years we may enter into the fullness of this our faith. Since thou art our Father, may we not hide our sins from thee, but overcome them by the stern comfort of thy presence. By this knowledge uphold us in our sorrows and make us patient even amid the unsolved mysteries of the years. Reveal to us the larger goodness and love that speak through the unbending laws of thy world. Through this faith make us the willing equals of all thy other children.

As thou art ever pouring out thy life in sacrificial Father-love, may we accept the eternal law of the Cross and give ourselves to thee and to all men. We praise thee for Jesus Christ, whose life has revealed to us this faith and law, and we rejoice that he has become the first-born among many brethren. Grant that in us, too, the faith in thy fatherhood may shine through all our life with such persuasive beauty that some who still creep in the dusk of fear may stand erect as free sons of God, and that others who now through unbelief are living as orphans in an empty world may stretch out their hands to the great Father of their spirits and find thee near.—REV. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH.

## PRAYER FOR LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

(The work of Abraham Lincoln, born February 12th, 1809, should never be forgotten, and will never be forgotten, for it was unselfishly wrought for all men and all time. On the Sunday preceding or at Lincoln's Birthday exercises the following prayer will be found appropriate or suggestive for study.)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who by thy providence doth lead men to positions of trust and responsibility, we thank thee for the rugged honesty, the fidelity and manliness that were manifested in the life of our martyred President Lincoln. Help us to appreciate the liberty and the unity he upheld and to give to our country the service of unselfish lives. Make us, like him, true lovers of our Fatherland. Help us to keep the promise our country has made to the world, the promise to be the home of freedom and brotherhood and justice for all. Help us in our lives to keep this promise. Help us in our happiness and in our strength to keep in mind the pleasures and rights of others. Make us individually and as a people to be brave and truthful and fair. Keep us in our successes free from boasting and conceit. Help all our people to become noble and great-hearted citizens, an honor to our nation and a spring of hope to our neighbors. Graciously hear our prayer and accept us, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

(George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental forces in the war of the American Revolution, and first President of the United States, was born February 22nd, 1732. The birthday of the "Father of his Country"—may it ever be freshly remembered by American hearts!

It is most appropriate that on the Sunday before the recurring anniversaries of his birth special public prayer should be offered in every pulpit of the land in recognition of his virtues and on behalf of the nation he did so much toward helping to found. The following may be found helpful as a form or suggestive for perusal.)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank thee that in the dark hours of our national life thou didst raise up thy servant, the first President of the United States, to be a leader and deliverer. Help us to keep in memory his exalted patriotism, his official integrity and his wise statesmanship. May these qualities be incentives and influences that shall be exerted upon generations and generations to come. We bless thee for the great things thou hast done and art doing for the children of men. We consider the days of old, the years of ancient times, and unto thee do we give thanks. We give thee special

praise for the wonderful grace and virtue manifested in all those, thy children, who have been the lights of the world in their several generations. For raising up thy servant, George Washington, and giving him to be the leader and commander of the people; for vouchsafing to him victory over kings, and for bestowing upon him many excellent gifts; for inclining the hearts of men in Congress assembled to wise choices, and for granting them vision of the days to come; for a settled constitution, and for equal laws; for freedom to do the thing that is right, and liberty to say the truth; for the spread of knowledge everywhere among us, and for the preservation of the faith, we bless and magnify thy Holy Name, humbly beseeching thee to accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ our only Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE PRESIDENT

(Ministers in America universally wish, in leading the people, to pray for the President, but many find it especially hard to express their petitions in suitable language. The following has been suggested:)

Bless, we pray thee, the President of the United States with wisdom, patience and courage. Enable him to guide his counselors and lead the people, that the spirit of truth, liberty, and sacrifice may abound, that so the nation may bear part in the service of mankind, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALL IN CIVIL AUTHORITY

O Lord, our heavenly Father, the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth: most heartily we beseech thee with thy favor to behold and bless thy servant, the President of the United States, and all others in authority; and so replenish them with the grace of thy Holy Spirit that they may always incline to thy will and walk in thy way. Endue them plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant them in health and prosperity long to live; and finally, after this life, to attain everlasting joy and felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER AT INAUGURATION TIME

(It is right and a privilege to remember the incoming President of the United States at the services on the Sunday before his inauguration. The same prayer would be appropriate on Inauguration Day.)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we humbly pray for a special blessing upon him now called to high office as President of the United States. May he perform every duty and fulfill every responsibility with an eye single to thy glory and the common good. Help him to choose as his counselors men both godly and gifted to aid in ministering to the safety and welfare of the Commonwealth. Give him wisdom from on high rightly to decide and wisely to judge, and make him both in word and deed a living example of every virtue which should adorn the character of one who ruleth a Christian land and people. Guide him. Guard him. Teach him. Lead him. Give him that wisdom which cometh from above. May his life and health and strength be very precious in thy sight, and after he has accomplished thy purposes here bring him, and ultimately us all, we pray thee, into thine everlasting and blessed kingdom above. We ask it all in the Name that is above every name, that of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR PUBLIC OFFICERS

(Pastors should be regular and faithful in remembering in public prayer the officers of authority in village, city, state and nation.)

O God, thou great governor of all the world, we pray thee for all who hold public office and power, for the life, the welfare, and the virtue of the people are in their hands to make or to mar. We remember with shame that in the past the mighty have preyed on the labors of the poor; that they have laid nations in the dust by their oppression, and have thwarted the love and prayers of Thy servants. We bless thee that the new spirit of democracy has touched even the kings of the earth. We rejoice that by the free institutions of our country the tyrannous instincts of the strong may be curbed and turned to the patient service of the commonwealth.

Strengthen the sense of duty in our political life. Grant

that the servants of the state may feel ever more deeply that any diversion of their public powers for private ends is a betrayal of their country. Purge our cities and states and nation of the deep causes of corruption which have so often made sin profitable and uprightness hard. Bring to an end the stale days of party cunning. Breathe a new spirit into all our nation. Lift us from the dust and mire of the past that we may gird ourselves for a new day's work. Give our leaders a new vision of the possible future of our country and set their hearts on fire with large resolves. Raise up a new generation of public men, who will have the faith and daring of the Kingdom of God in their hearts, and who will enlist for life in a holy warfare for the freedom and rights of the people. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER AT SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

O ascended Redeemer, thou art ever in the presence of thy Father, unforgetting, and forever loving. After having loved thine own, thou didst love them unto the end. To the end of the world, and through eternity, thou wilt be the loving Saviour. And now the evidences of thy affection and faithfulness are in us. We are severally witnesses of thy goodness; in enlightening us when we were in darkness; in searching us, and causing our sins to rise up in order before us. We are witnesses that thou didst call us and that we were made to know that God was gracious. And since we have recognized thine authority and called ourselves by thy Name, thou hast not forgotten to do us good—no, not for one moment. In our waywardness, in our forgetfulness, in our backslidings, in our wicked worldliness, in doubts and fears and retrocessions, thou hast been full of goodness. Yea, when we have been unfaithful, thou hast been faithful. Thou abidest, O God, and never changest. Thou dwellest without variableness or shadow of turning. It is man that changes and passes away.

We rejoice, O God, to acknowledge thee, to call ourselves by thy Name; and we rejoice that we are gathered into thy visible church, that we have been made to take the vows and covenants of God upon us; and we desire to be known as thy disciples, and never to draw back from the consecrations that we have made. We desire to be aided by thy holiness and love, so that the world may see Christ in us.

Be pleased to bless us as a church. We beseech thee, grant

to every individual member of this great body thy saving presence. And as we can not enumerate all their wants, we commend them to thee. Be pleased to find out the want of every one, and to relieve it from thine own infinite grace and fullness. There are many that are discouraged; but thy strength is as abundant for them now as it was in days that are past. There are many that say, "What shall we eat? what shall we drink? and wherewithal shall we be clothed?" And thou art saying to them, "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." There are many that sit despondent; there are many that have been bereaved; there are many that are suffering; there are many who have friends that are sick; there are many who have lost friends from their earthly estate. Be pleased, O thou comforting One, to comfort them severally, according to their need and thine infinite mercy and goodness.

And now thou art preparing thy people to come together, with vows and faithful promises, to celebrate thy dying love. Oh, may they never forget thy love. May the sun and the stars disappear from the heavens before any heart that has known the love of Christ shall forget it. And may we mourn over those sins that make us unworthy to call ourselves by his Name. May we seek more and more to resist the enemies of Christ, and to fortify ourselves that we may be faithful in his cause. And wilt thou prepare us for the celebration of thy dying love.

Remember any that are scattered abroad, dispersed, and that would fain come together with us. O Lord, may there still be borne out to them a communion of the Spirit; and if they turn their thoughts toward this Sabbath and yearn for thy sanctuary, be pleased, O God, to cause that, wherever they are, the ministration of thy providence and grace may abound to them.—B.

## INVOCATION PRAYER

Our heavenly Father! Already thou hast blessed us and anticipated our asking. We recognize thine hand that opens the morning; we recognize thy bounty that gives to us the rest which this day is wont to bring. And now we are gathered in this appointed place, which has been made dear to us by thy grace in days past, that again we may receive the Holy Ghost known by all desires inspired by thee, by wholesome

instruction received by its ministration, by all joy and peace in believing. Wilt thou therefore minister to us thine own self. Thou art life, and they that possess thee have everything that life can give. May the reading of thy Word, may the singing of thy praises, may the ministry of prayer, may the speech of instruction or meditation of truth, all profit our souls in glorifying thee. We ask it for the Redeemer's sake. Amen—B.

## A CLOSING PRAYER

Our Father, wilt thou add thy blessing to the word spoken. Grant that it may do good to us all. May it encourage us to undertake a release from evil. May it encourage us to undertake the assailing of habits long formed. May we not be discouraged because the labor of the way before us is so great, or because of past failures. And grant, O Lord God, that we may look up at the infiniteness of thy patience. Thou art long-suffering, thou art wonderful, and full of graciousness; and we pray that we may take heart, not from what we can do, but from that great summer which shines and distills the divine influence upon us perpetually. Grant, O thou divine Light and Warmth, thou Sun of righteousness, that thy beams may shine with cheer and nutriment upon all that are here present to-day. May there be many that shall be called by the goodness of God to repentance. May there be many who have been seeking thee, that shall girt their loins with fresh alacrity. May there be many who are discouraged in the way and are lagging that shall be gathered up, and that shall begin to work again with new zeal. Revive thy work in our hearts, and in all the churches throughout the land. We ask it for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.—B.

## PALM SUNDAY SALUTATIONS

(1) "And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying: Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest." Matt. 21:9.

(2) "This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob."

(3) "Lift up your heads, O ye gates, even lift them up ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who

is this King of glory? The Lord of Hosts, he is the King of glory."

## PALM SUNDAY INVOCATION PRAYER

With reverent and hopeful hearts we would come before thee this triumphal day, our Father. We would join even the children of the olden time in saying, "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

We come also conscious of our sins, our Father. We have not been helpers of thy Kingdom as much as we should have been. We have failed of making thy cause our cause, thy kingdom our kingdom, thine interests our interests. But we thank thee that there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared. Show us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation. Enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight shall no living man be justified.

But, O our Father, we would pray thee especially on this day so prophetic of triumph, hasten the coming of thy kingdom upon earth, and draw the whole world into willing obedience to thy blessed reign. Overcome all the enemies of Christ, and bring low every power that is exalted against him. Cast out all the evil things that cause wars and fightings among us, and let thy Spirit rule the hearts of men in righteousness and in love. Establish every work that is founded on truth and equity; let thy Kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven, and fulfill all the best hopes and desires of thy people. We ask in the name of Christ, our Saviour.

"Our Father," etc.

## A PRAYER FOR PALM SUNDAY

A King of kings art thou, O Christ. Thy throne is established in righteousness. Monarchs are swept away by the passing of time and the changing of circumstances; but thou dost forever reign. We adore thee as the King of our lives; we worship thee as our Saviour; we rejoice in thee as our Friend. Amen.
—Rev. W. J. Hart, D.D.

## A PRAYER FOR PALM SUNDAY

O God, whose Son for the salvation of mankind came down from heaven, and when the hour of his Passion was at hand

willed to enter into Jerusalem riding upon an ass, and to be hailed as King by the multitude; increase the faith of them that trust in thee, and mercifully hear the prayers of thy suppliants. Let thy blessing come upon us, and grant that as the Hebrew children met the same, thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, with branches of palms in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest; so we also may with good works go forth to meet Christ, and attain to everlasting felicity. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PALM SUNDAY PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, Son of the living God, Maker and Redeemer of the world, who for us men and for our salvation was pleased to come down from heaven to take our flesh, and to undergo thy Passion; and who of thine own will when approaching the place of thy Passion didst deign to be blessed and to be praised and to be hailed as a King blessed and coming in the name of the Lord, receive now the service of our praises, and may we be counted worthy to attain the remission of sins and the rewards of everlasting life; through thee, O Saviour Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

## PALM SUNDAY PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, who on this day didst enter the rebellious city where thou wast to die, enter into our hearts, we beseech thee, and subdue them wholly to thyself. And as thy faithful disciples blessed thy coming, and spread their garments in the way, covering it with palm branches, may we be ready to lay at thy feet all that we have and are, and to bless thee, O thou who comest in the name of the Lord. And grant that after having confessed and worshiped thee upon the earth, we may be among the number of those who shall hail thine eternal triumphs, and bear in their hands the palms of victory, when every knee shall bow before thee, and every tongue confess that thou art Lord, and that thou shalt reign for ever and ever. Amen.

## A PRAYER FOR HOLY WEEK

Through days of controversy, misunderstanding, suffering and death, our Saviour, we would follow thee in careful and reverent meditation. May the matchless beauty of thy character and the great lessons of thy life come to us with rich unfolding of meaning.

As thou wert strong to suffer, O Christ, so give unto us, thy followers, needed strength in hours of weariness, pain and conflict. As thou wert patient, our Master, amid misunderstanding and scorn, so impart unto us the grace of patience.

Thou, O Christ, in the glory of submission, involving the very agony of death, didst seek to do the will of thy Father. May this impressive lesson of thy life, as we shall study it during these days, lead us to pray for thy will to be done in our lives. May we be loving, dutiful, sacrificing servants of thine, O our Saviour, ever worthy of thee. Amen.—Rev. W. J. Hart, D.D.

## GOOD FRIDAY SCRIPTURE SALUTATION

"Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, such as silver and gold; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Pet. 1:18, 19.

## A PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Despised and rejected, thorn-crowned and crucified wert thou, our divine Master. Thy suffering and sacrifice were for us. Henceforth may our lives be spent for thee. Amen.—Rev. W. J. Hart, D.D.

## PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love toward mankind hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and that in the form of a servant, and to suffer death, even the death of the Cross, for our redemption; mercifully grant that this mind may be in us which was also in Christ Jesus, that we may both follow the example of his humble obedience and patient suffering, and also be made partakers of his glorious resurrection, to live with thee forever. Grant this for the sake of thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, thou holy and spotless Lamb of God, who didst take upon thyself our sins, and bear them in thy body on the Cross; we bless thee for all the burdens thou hast borne, for all the tears thou hast wept, for all the pains thou hast suffered, for all the words of comfort thou hast spoken from the Cross, for all thy conflicts with powers of darkness, and for thine eternal victory over death and hell. With the host of the redeemed, we ascribe unto thee power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing, for ever and ever. Amen.

## A GOOD FRIDAY DEVOTION

O God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, have mercy upon us.

Jesus, thou Son of the living God, have mercy upon us.

By the mystery of thy holy incarnation; by thy most holy life and conversation; by thy most bitter Passion and death; by thine agony and sweat; O Jesus, deliver us.

By thy thrice repeated prayer; by the resignation of thy human will; by thy bonds and stripes; by thy sacred body buffeted and smitten; O Jesus, deliver us.

By thy cruel mockings and scourgings; by the spitting upon thine adorable face; by the false judgment pronounced on thee by Caiaphas; by thy being set at nought by Herod; O Jesus, deliver us.

By the shameful stripping off of thy garments; by thy painful crown of thorns; by thy purple robe of mockery; by thine most unjust condemnation; O Jesus, deliver us.

By thy bearing thine own cross; by thy footprints traced in blood; by the tearing off of thy garments; by the cruel straining of thy sacred limbs; O Jesus, deliver us.

By thy dread crucifixion; by the upraising of thy cross; by the anguish which thou didst suffer; by the insults which thou didst endure; O Jesus, deliver us.

By thy prayers and tears; by the shedding of thy most precious blood; by thy patience and humility; by the love wherewith thou didst love us unto the end: We sinners beseech thee, O Jesus, to hear us.

That being dead unto sin we may live unto righteousness; that we may not glory save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus

Christ; that we may take up our cross daily and follow thee; that thy blood may cleanse us from dead works, to serve the living God: Jesus, we beseech thee to hear us.

That looking unto thine example, we may follow thy steps; that being partakers of thy sufferings, we may also be of thy glory; O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, who at the sixth hour was lifted up upon the Cross for the redemption of the world, and didst shed thy blood for the remission of our sins; we humbly beseech thee that by the virtue and merits of thy most holy Life, Passion, and Death thou wouldst grant us to enter into the gates of paradise with joy—who livest and abidest forever. Amen.

## GOOD FRIDAY THREE HOUR DEVOTIONAL SERVICE

*In Hallowed Memory of Our Saviour's Passion*

Hymn: (12 M.) "Alas, and did my Saviour bleed."

The Lord's Prayer.

Prayer:

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers while we call to memory thy Passion and also thy great love. O our Lord Jesus, who didst endure the cross and despise the shame, we beseech thee to draw us to thyself through thy holy passion and death. We bless thee for drinking this bitter cup for our sakes. We praise thee for accepting such sorrow of soul and such agony of body to save us from everlasting death. Reveal to us the power of the cross in drawing our souls from earthly things. By it may we be dead to the world and the world dead to us. By it may our hatred of sin be deepened and our love for thee increased. Hear us, blessed Saviour, who art, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, worthy of all praise, world without end. Amen.

(*To be said by Minister and people together.*)

O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious blood, hast redeemed us; save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Hymn: "When I survey the wondrous cross."

### THE FIRST WORD

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34.

Read Psalm 6.

Prayer:

O patient Lord, who in thy bitter pain didst pray for those who persecuted and reviled thee, saying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," give us thy spirit. Deliver us from revenge and vindictiveness. May we freely and promptly forgive others, even as we hope to be ourselves forgiven of thee. Save us also, O God, from the sins of ignorance, and especially from those that would bring reproach upon thy Son, our holy Redeemer and Master. And O Lord Jesus Christ, who endured the cross and despised the shame, draw us to thyself. Because of that compassion which thou didst manifest upon the cross in extending forgiveness to those who crucified thee, may we never doubt thy mercy. May our sins never keep us from turning to thee who art ever ready to receive all who truly repent. We ask in thy dear Name. Amen.

Hymn: "O sacred head now wounded."

### THE SECOND WORD

"To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43.

Read Psalm 32.

Prayer:

O Lord Jesus, full of grace and truth, who being crucified between two thieves, didst promise one of them, believing on thee, and confessing thee, the fruition of paradise, look upon us with the eye of pity wherewith thou didst behold that repentant one, pardon us freely, and grant us at last to hear thy blessed word, To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise. Give us, we pray, the spirit of true repentance that we may both confess and forsake all our sins and be filled with the joy of thy great forgiveness. We ask through thine own blessed Name. Amen.

Meditation.

Address.

### THE THIRD WORD

"Woman, behold thy son! . . . Behold thy mother!" John 19:26, 27.

Read Psalm 130.

Prayer:

O sympathizing Jesus, who amidst the agonies of the cross wast mindful of thine afflicted mother, commending her to the care of thy beloved disciple, saying, Woman, behold thy son, give us grace to be a comfort to our parents in their sorrows, and to follow thee as a pattern in all things. Fill us with a spirit of tenderness toward the parents who have watched over us and cared for our every want. Bless our homes. Help us as members in households faithfully to fulfill our duties there and to one another. Put far from us all unkind thoughts, anger and evil speaking, give us tender hearts, full of affection and sympathy toward all. Grant us grace to feel the sorrows and trials of others as our own, and to bear patiently with their imperfections. Preserve us from selfishness and grant that day by day, walking in love, we may grow into the likeness of thy blessed Son, and be found ready to meet and enter with him into that home he has gone to prepare for us and for all who love him. We ask this in his Name. Amen.

### THE FOURTH WORD

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Mark 15:34.

Read Psalm 51.

Prayer:

Gracious Lord and Saviour, who didst suffer unutterable woe when for a time thou wast forsaken of thy Father, help us to feel the enormity of our sins which brought thee this sorrow. May the consciousness of our transgressions lead us to repentance and gladly to accept the great salvation thou hast prepared for us. Make us strong by thy suffering. Make us to love thee with all our hearts. Grant that we, being penitent, may crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts, and may we be constrained by thy love to live henceforth to thy glory. We ask in thy most holy Name. Amen.

### THE FIFTH WORD

"I thirst." John 19:28.

Prayer:

O Jesus Christ, who didst bear pain and thirst for our sakes, grant that through the power of thy holy passion our sins may

be blotted out. May we thirst for thee and for the righteousness which thou alone canst give. O grant, by that cup of sorrow which thou didst drink for us, and by that weary path which thou didst tread, that we may willingly drink of thy cup, and cheerfully follow thee along the road where thou hast gone before; who with the Father and the Holy Ghost now reignest one God, world without end. Amen.

Hymn: "Hark the voice of love and mercy."

### THE SIXTH WORD

"It is finished." John 19:30.

Read Psalm 143.

Prayer:

We praise thee, O our God, for the finished work of thy Son, and that in him thy promises had their fulfillment. May we love and accept him in his humanity and divinity as God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God. We magnify thee that there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. We desire to trust in him alone for our salvation, to depend on him, to rest in him as our only Saviour. Accept us in him, thy Beloved. And may we love and serve him all the days of our lives. We ask through riches of grace in him, thy Son and our Saviour. Amen.

### THE SEVENTH WORD

"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Luke 23:46.

Read Psalm 102.

Prayer:

O Immortal Jesus, who when thou hadst pleased to die, didst bow thy head and commend thy spirit into the hands of thy Father, grant that when the hour of our departure shall come, we may be willing to leave this mortal life, and thou being present to our sight, and shining upon us with the light of thy countenance, we may joyfully commit our souls to thee, who art the Resurrection and the Life; who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Hymn: "Sweet the moments, rich in blessing."

Silent Devotion.

Benediction.

(The hymn "The Seven Words," in seven parts, by Thomas B. Pollock, 1870, beginning, "Jesus in thy dying woes," music by Sir Arthur Sullivan, may be used section by section if preferred, or in addition to the hymns here suggested. There may be brief remarks in connection with each section. At each "Word" a different speaker may be heard briefly. But it is wise to have much of the service to be spent in quiet meditation, led from time to time in devout prayer.)

## EASTER. SCRIPTURE SALUTATIONS

(Sentences for the opening words of the Easter service:)

1. "Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first-fruits of them that slept."
2. "Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ."
3. "If ye then be risen with Christ seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God."
4. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" "Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"
5. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Pet. 1:3.

## EASTER INVOCATION PRAYER (1)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have heard thy call to come to thy house this glorious (blessed) Easter morning, and behold we are here present to know what thou wilt speak to us. We know, our Father, that it is indeed the resurrection day—day that completes the world's hope of immortality—day that gives promise of our own resurrection. We thank thee that our eyes again behold the Easter morning. May we worship thee to-day in spirit and in truth—in the very beauty of holiness. Christ is triumphant; let us triumph because we abide in him. Christ is victor; let us be victors also because we abide in him. Our hearts rejoice; but let us not in our gladness forget that we must live the resurrection life from day to day. O God, make us earnest and faithful and courageous, and fill us with divine longings. Let

praise be manifest in our strong and helpful lives. Let us not live looking backward, even though the look be toward an open tomb. Let us fix our eyes on the far forward eternal gate of day. Hear us, O our Father, and forgive us all our sins, as we realize afresh, "The Lord is risen indeed and has become our hope and our salvation." "Our Father," etc.

## EASTER INVOCATION PRAYER (2)

Our dear Lord and Saviour, who on this first day of the week didst rise again from the dead, raise up our souls, we pray thee, into newness of life, granting us repentance from dead works, and planting in us the likeness of thy resurrection. Redeem us from everything that would hinder the fullness of our communion with thee. Quicken every dead and sleeping power in our souls. Remove far from us the impurity that clouds our vision. Forgive our sins. Cleanse our hearts. Strengthen us for battle against evil. Release us from the pride which blots out thy glory. Give unto us the lowliness by which we may enter into the secret place. Lift our thoughts into heavenly places in Christ Jesus. May our minds be possessed by the Spirit of our Lord. Let our prayers and our devotion be in accordance with thy holy will, and at the end of the day may the flowers and fruits of the Spirit be abundant in our lives.

"Our Father," etc.

## EASTER INVOCATION PRAYER (3)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have heard thy call to come to thy house this glorious Easter morning, and behold we are here present to hear what thou wilt speak to us. We ask thy blessing upon us now as a worshiping congregation. Grant us the spirit of adoration, the spirit of supplication, the spirit of true penitence and the spirit of hopefulness while we wait before thee, and, O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only begotten Son to the death of the Cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy, grant that we may so die daily unto sin that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection. And, O thou Prince of Life and First Begotten of the dead, who by thy glorious resurrection hast overcome

death and opened unto us the gates of everlasting life, enable us by thy heavenly grace to walk in newness of life, and to abound in the fruits of righteousness; so that we may at last triumph over death and the grave, and rise in thy likeness, having our vile bodies changed into the fashion of thine own glorious body, who art God over all, blessed forever.

"Our Father who art in heaven," etc.

## EASTER PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thou who art the risen Christ, lift us, we pray thee, into the joy of the risen life in thee. May we at this Easter time experience the fullness of the joy that thou didst come to bring to those who would follow thee. May no dead past lay its chill hand upon us to-day, but may thy victory over sin and death raise us with thee into the light and the life that thou didst promise.

We thank thee for the dear and faithful dead, for those who made the distant heavens a home for us, and whose truth and beauty are even now in our hearts. One by one thou dost gather the scattered families out of the earthly light into the heavenly glory, from the distractions and strife and weariness of time to the peace of eternity. We thank thee for the labors and joys of these mortal years. We thank thee for our deep sense of the mysteries that lie beyond our dust, and for the eye of faith which thou hast opened for all who believe in thy Son to outlook that mark. May we live altogether in thy faith and love, and in the hope which is full of immortality. Amen.

## EASTER PRAYER

Almighty and most gracious God, we humbly pray that the holy memories of this season may awake our hearts to gratitude and praise. Save us from living in the mere outsides of the festival, celebrating our Easter without communion with the risen Lord. May the Saviour not be crowded out by the power of worldly distractions. May we not be in bondage to any worldly custom and fail to find the glorious liberty of the children of God. May this Easter Day be radiant with the light of life. May we know the power of the resurrection. Lift us up from the death of sin and from the slavery of selfishness into the joyful life of communion

with Christ. May we find that the Saviour, who broke the bands of death, can break the bonds of our servitude and set us free. We pray that the glory of the risen Lord may shine into all hearts that are held in the darkness of bereavement. May the Lord come to sorrowing people like the sweet morning after a night of storm. Grant that all who are trembling in their faith may have their trust confirmed. Guide us so that we may feel our feet upon the Rock. Lead us from mere opinions into strong convictions, and from fleeting emotions into ceaseless praise. Put a new song into our mouths, and may we witness the power of thy grace by the strength of our peace. May we rise with Christ Jesus into heavenly places, and even now sit with him on his throne. Amen.—Rev. JOHN HENRY JOWETT, D.D.

## EASTER PRAYER

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our heavenly Father, give unto us that we may know Jesus. May we know him in his life, that we may be in the world, as he was in the world, going about doing good. May we know him in his death, that we may not glory save in his cross, being crucified with him. May we know him in his resurrection that we may rise with him to the newness of the resurrection life, living not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. May we know him in his ascension, that we may experience his intercession, having our conversation with him in heaven. May we know him in the coming of his Spirit that we may be endued with power from on high to bear witness unto him wherever he doth send us. May we know him in his coming in glory, that we may not be found sleeping in our sins, but awake and rejoicing in his praises and prepared, with him, to enter into the banquet of eternal life. So may we daily increase in union with him, and become more and more like unto him, until we are changed into his perfect image, and presented faultless before his face in the day of his appearing.—EDWARD A. WICHER.

## EASTER PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we pray that thou wilt graciously lead us into the wonderful joy of the Resurrection Morn. May we understand something of the unspeakable sacrifice of

Good Friday, so that we may enter into the liberty of Easter Day. We bless thee that Christ Jesus died to give us freedom from sin so that we might have access into the marvelous inheritance of grace. May we humbly claim that freedom and not celebrate our Easter-tide in bondage. May we not seek to satisfy ourselves with a fleeting happiness and miss the abiding joy. May we not try to feed ourselves with stones and miss the heavenly bread. May we humbly seek the forgiveness that is ours in Christ Jesus, and through that forgiveness the joy which gives the spirit wings. We would see Jesus. May nothing interpose between our souls and him. Forbid that the Easter service itself should be a barrier, hiding the Saviour from our gaze. May everything be transparent so that we may behold the King in his beauty. May we find our communion in the one spirit. May our thanksgivings be inspired by the one grace. May all our varied lives be held together in the one faith. So let the light of Easter shine in all our souls through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.—JOHN HENRY JOWETT, D.D.

## EASTER PRAYER

Unto thee, O Christ, who hast conquered death and risen again, be glory evermore! Light of the world, splendor of the Father's presence, Son of Man in humility of self-devotion, Son of God in power, thy risen life is the assurance of our victory. From our low estate, compassed with weakness, made subject to the death of the body, we look up with grateful and exultant hearts to thee. Thou hast tasted death for every man, and risen again from thy humiliation into glory. As thou hast called us to be one with thee in suffering, so lead us through experience of thy help in trial to the triumph of thy risen and eternal life. Rid us of all absorbing love of earth, and all bondage to the fear of death. Purify our hearts by the indwelling of thy Spirit, that we may wait thy coming with expectant joy. And to God most High, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, be praise for evermore. Amen.—REV. ISAAC OGDEN RANKIN, D.D.

## AN EASTER DEVOTION

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost: Have mercy upon us. O Holy Trinity, one God; O Lord Jesus

Christ, the true Paschal Lamb; Jesus who didst build up in three days the temple of thy body; Jesus who according to thy Word didst rise the third day from the grave: Have mercy upon us.

Jesus whose resurrection an angel announced to the women at the sepulcher; Jesus who didst show thyself to thy disciples after thy resurrection; Jesus who didst magnify the truth of thy resurrection with unnumbered miracles; Jesus whose resurrection the apostles preached and confirmed with their blood: Have mercy upon us.

Jesus who through thy resurrection hast given us a sure hope of eternal life; Jesus who after thy resurrection didst continue forty days with thy disciples; Jesus who didst ascend from the Mount of Olives to thy Father and ours: Have mercy upon us.

Jesus who hast prepared mansions in thy Father's house for thy servants; Jesus who wilt come again at the end of time to judge the quick and the dead: We sinners beseech thee to hear us.

That we may truly rise from the grave of our sins; that we may conquer our evil desires and die to our sins; that we may grow in knowledge and love of thy holy teaching; that we may serve thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life: We beseech thee to hear us.

That our sorrows may like thine one day be turned into eternal joy; that we may not seek after things on earth but things in heaven; that we may awake at length from the grave to the resurrection of eternal life; that at the general resurrection we may have a share in thy kingdom: We beseech thee to hear us.

## EASTER PRAYER

O thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we render thee most humble and hearty thanks, that when he had descended into the grave, thou didst not suffer thy Holy One to see corruption, but didst show unto him the path of life, and raise him from the dead, and set him at thine own right hand in the heavenly places. Grant us grace, we beseech thee, to apprehend with true faith the glorious mystery of our Saviour's resurrection, and fill our hearts with joy and a lively hope, that, amid all the sorrows, trials, and temptations of our mortal state, and in the hour of death, we may derive

strength and comfort from this sure pledge of an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

O thou Son of God and Son of Man, who by thy victory over death hast brought life and immortality to light; raise us, by faith in thee, from the grave of sin, and deliver us from the mortal darkness of unbelief; that our hearts may be fortified with an eternal hope, and our affections set upon the things which are above, and our spirits clothed at last with a celestial body; in the likeness of that glory wherein thou art exalted for evermore at the right hand of the Father. —Book of Common Worship.

## EASTER PRAYER

Eternal and most Holy God, we humbly pray that we may now experience the power of the resurrection. May we know that our Saviour is alive because we ourselves are lifted from the death of sin. Lead us out of the graves of passion and worldliness into the life and light of the Lord. Help us to rise above everything that is mean and selfish to the glorious life of the saints. Mercifully deliver us from every unclean thing that holds us captive. Especially do we ask that thou wilt redeem us from the evils which appear small but which hold us in captivity. Save us from every form of vanity and pride. Deliver us from the lust of display. May we be more concerned to receive honor of God than of man. Impart unto us a spirit of simplicity and lowliness, so that we may apprehend thy glory. Set our minds upon things that are above. May we find that even now it is possible for us to live in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Let the light of thy presence fall upon our road. Even now in this service may we behold thy strength and beauty. Break up our indifference. Wake us out of perilous sleep and may we become children of light, even as thou art in the light. Amen.—Rev. John Henry Jowett, D.D.

## EASTER PRAYER

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we worship thee in the light of the glorious revelation of our risen Redeemer. We bless thy Holy Name that thou hast in him answered the questionings of our troubled hearts concerning the mystery of the future. In the triumphant life of our Saviour we have

seen the blessedness and glory of our own destiny. To-day we lift up our eyes above the ever-changing experiences of time to the abiding realities of the ageless life in the eternal brightness. We rejoice in the hope with which our souls are inspired, that it is not death to die, that nothing in which the Spirit of Christ dwells can ever die, that no human friendship in him can ever perish. We are persuaded that as our Lord lives in victorious power, so our loved ones are with him alive for evermore. We praise thee, O God, that thou hast already implanted within us the deathless life, and that even now we enter into eternal fellowship with our Master and with his saints who are with him in the Eternal. And we would bring the inspiration, and vision, and power of eternity down into the duties and problems of our mortal life. Amen. —JOHN HENRY JOWETT, D.D.

## EASTER PRAYER

Our Father God, we bless thee for the wonder which fills our souls when we remember the glorious happenings of Easter Morn. We bless thee that when our Saviour rose from the tomb the power of sin and death was broken. We rejoice that in his resurrection we have the hope of eternal life. We humbly pray that our Easter-tide may be celebrated by a closer walk with the risen Lord. May those who have been far off be drawn near by the blood of Christ. Save us from alienation. May we not be contented to remain in the far country and feed our souls upon the husks of the world. May we celebrate Easter in richer consecrations, in more determined vows, and in more sacrificial service. May we be ready to enter into the fellowship of our Lord's sufferings in order that we may be counted worthy to know the power of his resurrection. We pray for a willingness to suffer and endure for the sake of thy Kingdom. May we bear thy name in our foreheads. May we declare our kinship with thee by the strength and fragrance of our speech and service. May we be witnesses to the power of thy grace. May we never be ashamed of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Give us the spirit of fruitful courage. May we burn with the desire to do thy will, to help our fellows, and to glorify thy Name. We humbly pray that this Easter Day may be a season of spiritual resurrection in all our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.—REV. JOHN HENRY JOWETT, D.D.

## PRAYER AT SPRING TIME

(It is well to recognize the seasons in our pulpit prayers. The following petitions are appropriate at the Spring Time.)

O Lord, our God, author and giver of all good things, who hast ordained the earth to bring forth grass for cattle, and herbs and food for the service of man, look down in thy compassion upon us, and bless, we beseech thee, the labors of thy servants who till and sow the fields. Vouchsafe to us seasonable weather; cause thy face to shine, and let thy rain and dew refresh the ground, that the fruits of the earth may be matured, our garners may be filled with corn and all good fruits, and that there may be abundance of food both for man and for beast. So we thy people and the sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations. Amen.

## ASCENSION DAY PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, thou Conqueror of death and hell, who from the depths of thy humiliation didst pass into the heavens, and art crowned with glory and honor as King of saints and eternal High Priest over the house of God; let thy all-powerful intercessions prevail on our behalf, that, being delivered from the curse of sin, we may receive grace and strength to follow thee with patient endurance through the sorrows and pains of earth, and the darkness of the grave, and, having thus shared in thy sufferings here, become partakers also of thy joy and glory in the everlasting kingdom of the Father. Amen.

## WHITSUNDAY PRAYER

God of all peace and consolation, who didst gloriously fulfill the great promise of the Gospel by sending down the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, to establish the Church as the house of his continual presence and power among men; mercifully grant unto us, we beseech thee, this same gift of the Spirit, to renew, illuminate, refresh, and sanctify our souls; to be over us and around us like the light and dew of heaven, and to be in us evermore as a well of water springing up into everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

## MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

O God, we offer thee praise and benediction for the sweet ministries of motherhood in human life. We bless thee for our own dear mothers who built up our lives by theirs; who bore us in travail and loved us the more for the pain we gave; who nourished us at their breast and hushed us to sleep in the warm security of their arms. We thank thee for their tireless love, for their voiceless prayers, for the agony with which they followed us through our sins and won us back, for the Christly power of sacrifice and redemption in mother-love. We pray thee to forgive us if in thoughtless selfishness we have taken their love as our due without giving the tenderness which they craved as their sole reward. And if the great treasure of a mother's life is still spared to us, may we do for her feebleness what she did for ours.

We remember before thee all the good women who are now bearing the pain and weariness of maternity. Grant them strength of body and mind for their new tasks. Widen their vision that they may see themselves, not as the mothers of one child alone, but as the patriot women of their nation, who alone can build up the better future with fresh and purer life. Put upon the girls of our people the awe of their future calling, that they may preserve their bodies and minds in purity and strength for the holy task to which the future may summon them.

Bestow thy special grace, we beseech thee, on all women who have the yearnings of motherhood, but whose lives are barren of its joys. If any form of human sin has robbed them of the price of life, grant them righteous anger and valiant hearts to fight that sin on behalf of those who come after them. Help them to overcome the bitterness of disappointment, and to find an outlet for their thwarted mother-love in the wider ministrations to all the lonely and unmothered hearts in thy great family on earth.

As the protecting love of motherhood wrought blindly in the earliest upward climb of life, may it now, with open eyes and strong with Christly passion, set its tireless strength to lift humanity from the reign of brutal force and to found the larger family of men on the blessed might of love.—Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch.

## MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

O God, who art the Father of us all; we pray for thy blessing upon all mothers everywhere. Give to them holy desires with wisdom and power to fulfill the same, so that their children may grow up to call them blessed, and to be useful men and women in this, thy great world. We ask this, O Father, in the Name of Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour, who once lay a little child in the arms of a holy mother. Amen.

## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW HOME

(A bright young woman in one of our churches came to her pastor one Sunday morning after the Sunday School service and said: "We are to be married Wednesday, you know, and uncle is coming to perform the ceremony. But I wanted my Pastor to have a share in it, too. Would you write out a prayer for us," she asked, "a prayer we could use in our new home?" Her eyes were bright with joy. What wonder the pastor's heart thrilled within him. And this is the prayer he wrote for them, the two who were making the great adventure of love, and who wanted to take their heavenly Father with them, at the very beginning in the holiest place:)

Our gracious heavenly Father, we thank thee for our new home, thy gift to us to use for thee. We enter upon it with gratitude for its holy joys and privileges. For the love that binds our hearts together, for the hopes that make the future bright, for the work we can do for thee and thy kingdom, we give thee grateful thanks.

Help us truly to share every joy and every burden. Teach us how to give and forgive. May thy Word be our light and our guide. Make us mindful to bring our petition to thee every morning and our praise every evening. Be thou our Guest at every meal, our Guide in every plan, our Guardian in every temptation. Help us daily in the glorious task of making a Christian home.

On this first holy night of our home life together we commit ourselves gladly to thee. We humbly ask thy grace to keep us in every thought and act. When the morning dawns, help us to go forth with joy to the labor of the new day.

And when life's evening comes, bring us safe home at last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We ask it in his Name. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

(Memorial Day, formerly called Decoration Day, occurs on the 30th of May. It is dedicated to the memory of our patriot dead. Such a prayer as the following would be appropriate on the Sunday preceding or at the Memorial Day services in a church, hall, or in the cemetery.)

O Lord, thou who art our God and our fathers' God, we desire to offer that homage which is due to thee and to seek thy blessing upon the ceremonies in which we are engaged. We are commemorating the brave deeds done and the heroic deaths encountered in causes which, being good, we believe to have been thine own. Bless our endeavor to impress upon this generation the lessons that can be learned from the past. Especially would we now give thee thanks for the good examples of those who, having fought in defense of liberty and right, do now rest from their labors. As we strew their honored graves with floral tokens of our loving remembrance, we rejoice in the knowledge that they are not forgotten by thee. May this land for which they fought be preserved through all the dangers that confront it, and may it ever stand as an ensign to all the peoples of the earth. Give our rulers and all in authority over us wisdom to see and know what things they ought to do, and grace faithfully to fulfill the same. May they and we and all the people live in thy fear and walk in thy ways. Hasten the happy day when war shall be learned no longer and all battle flags be furled; when men shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning-hooks, and peace shall reign throughout the whole earth. And at last, O Lord God, when our work here is done, may we, with all those whom we have loved and lost a while, be reunited in thy new and everlasting kingdom, where death and pain and parting never come. We ask all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PRAYER WHEN NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOMED INTO THE CHURCH

We thank thee, heavenly Father, that thou hast not withdrawn thy presence and power from this church. We praise thee for the grace that has touched the hearts of these, thy young servants, constraining them to dedicate themselves to thee, to yield their hearts and lives to thy control, and to ask admission to the number of thy professed followers. Grant to them, and to us all, at this holy hour, fresh gifts of thy Holy Spirit, that we may severally make and renew our vows to thee from the heart. Feed us this day on the bread of life, that we may become more like our Lord Jesus. Grant us the grace of a new resolve to be faithful. May these new members of the church prove a blessing to us, and we to them, and all of us to those around us. Pour out thy Spirit now for cleansing with the Word, according to thy promise. Let not our use of thine appointed ordinances degenerate into empty form. Grant us that renewal and strengthening of our spiritual life here symbolized. Put meaning and power into all our worship. Amen.

## PASTORAL PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Eternal God, our Father: We seek to share in thine ineffable joy by sharing in thy righteousness and thy gracious ministries to men. Beget within us a deep distrust of the deceitfulness of sin. Rid us of the insanity which proposes to extract good out of our own evil, or to distill joy out of lawless mischief. Make us soberly and intensely afraid of all misdoing or unrighteous neglect. Show us how an unkind and selfish spirit always breaks its own bones and tears its own flesh. Teach us the majestic satisfaction of plain fidelity, simple honesty, a loving heart, a generous spirit and self-forgetting habit. Cure us of seeing things crooked; of blaming others when our affairs go wrong; of imagining that bubbles are solid, that goodness tastes bitter, that piety fetters, that God is an absentee landlord and a hard taskmaster. Bring us into such close fellowship with thee that nothing less or other than thy righteousness, thine applause, thy service, can ever seem to us worth while. Lord, that we may come to recognize true beauty when we see it, and no longer worship moral ugliness; make us ashamed of our degradation

when we fall down before vulgar badness, and serve nothing higher than our own selfish nature. Grant us the dignity of studied faithfulness to our obligations and opportunities, and deliver us from the disgrace of the shirk. Since by thy grace we have been led to choose the path of piety, make us eager to be pious at our own cost and not another's; church-members who bear a part, not religious tramps fed from other people's back-doors. Grant thy blessing to this church. Make its members workers, not drags; its officers leaders, not idlers; its finances a system, not chaos; its Sunday-school not an accidental splash, but a stream of power proceeding from a working church and directed by strong hands. Thus deliver us from the mockery of an empty profession and idle hands; nor ever let this church degenerate into a mere casual assemblage of ecclesiastical loafers and religious frauds. To this end bring us, one by one, to repentance for our shortcomings and offenses; put our hands to the plow, and keep us from ever abandoning or neglecting thy work and the glorious life of God's obedient and useful children. Let us not be derelicts, but creators. Make our bodies vehicles for the fires from heaven, consuming vice and folly, and generating power to refine and bless. Give us power to create divine values in human life; and keep us busy organizing truth and salvation, and infusing these into other lives. Give us the eye that sees things which are not, and the hand to hew them out and make them real. Thus let this church be the stronger for our being members of it, this community the better for our living in it, and the world brighter just because we have passed along the way. In Christ's Name. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR FLAG DAY

(Flag Day comes on June 14th. It was on the 14th of June, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted our present national flag. It is certainly appropriate that on the Sunday before or on Flag Day itself such a prayer as the following should be offered by every minister leading his people in public devotions.)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we bless thee that thou hast cast our lot in this land of civil and religious liberty. We bless thee for the flag that stands as a symbol of such exalted privileges. We pray, O God, that wherever the flag of this nation is unfurled it may be indeed the emblem of

liberty, justice and truth. Give to all who enjoy its protection the blessings of progress, of peace, of education and religion. May its white speak to us of purity, its red of that glowing zeal which pleaseth thee, and its blue of the eternal home beyond the stars. May it help all humanity toward the attainment of the true brotherhood, and so hasten the time when the power of the Gospel shall bring all nations and kindreds and people under the dominion of Him who is the King of kings and Lord of lords. We ask all in the name of Christ. Amen.

## PRAYER AT UNFOLDING OF A CHURCH FLAG

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, sovereign Commander of all the world, in whose hand is power and might; we bless thy holy Name for all the goodness and mercy which thou hast bestowed upon us as a nation and people. Accept, bless and hallow now, we beseech thee, this flag of our nation which we offer for the use of thy house of prayer. Grant that all who look upon it may be filled with gratitude for thy mercies in the past and with earnest purpose to do thy holy will for all the time to come. Help us to realize that the religion of thy dear Son is for public as well as private use, for the city, the state and the nation, as well as for the individual and the home. And as we grow in the faith of Christ make us better citizens, sure of thy calling and faithful in thy service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER WITH AND FOR CHILDREN

(It is important to use simple and yet thoughtful petitions in leading children in prayer. The following would be suitable for use in Sunday School, church, Christian Endeavor and other gatherings of children.)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we are very weak and sinful. Make us sorry for all the wrong things that we have done, and help us to grow better every day. Keep us from all meanness and selfishness, and from hurting others by word or deed. Help us gladly to obey our parents and teachers, make us ready to give up our own way, and teach us to be patient and kind and loving to all about us. Make us painstaking and cheerful in doing every little duty. Give us

courage to resist evil and hardness to endure. Help us to be more reverent and attentive in Church and Sunday School. May we be always pure and truthful in thought and word, and learn day by day to know thee better and to love thee more. Bless our Church and Sunday School and all who belong to them. Bring the whole world to know and love Christ and serve him gladly. Teach us how we may best help in bringing in thy kingdom. We ask all in the name of Christ our Saviour. Amen.

## COMMENCEMENT PRAYER

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, thou who lightenest every man that cometh into the world, enlighten our hearts and minds with the favor of thy countenance while we wait before thee this day. Let thy divine favor rest upon this school under whose auspices we are met—upon its faculty, its graduates, its present students, upon the members of the class graduating to-day and upon all their parents and friends and well-wishers. Bless especially, we pray thee, all here and everywhere who teach and guide the young. Grant them an abiding consciousness that they are co-workers with thee, thou Great Teacher of humanity, and that thou hast charged them with the holy duty of bringing forth from the budding life of the young the mysterious stores of character and ability which thou hast hidden in them. Do thou reward thy servants with a glad sense of their own eternal worth as teachers of the race, and in the heat of the day do thou show the spring by the wayside that flows from the eternal silence of God and gives new life to all who drink of it. Bless the cause of sound learning everywhere. We thank thee, O God, that the sum of human knowledge is being increased. We thank thee that the sun of knowledge is shining and that the clouds of ignorance are being scattered. We bless thy Name for all that knowledge has done and is now doing for the well-being of mankind—in the spread of material comfort among men, in the prevention and cure of disease, in the promotion of good feeling, in social service and philanthropic effort, in improved manners, in refined living, in the advance of morals, in elevated tastes and in the emancipating power of the truth that delivers man from the power of appetite; that tells him to seek the pleasures of the mind; that teaches him to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and that

bids him bring forth the fruits of the Spirit in love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness and faith. Send out thy light and thy truth that with growing knowledge there may be greater faith, and so promote the holy alliance between the two that men shall not be satisfied with either an ignorant faith or an unbelieving knowledge.

Bless very especially, we pray thee, our Father, this group of young women going out from school to-day. May their lives and health and strength be very precious in thy sight. Give them, we pray thee, just as much of the good things of this life as they can bear and still keep humble and lowly of heart in thy sight and in the sight of men. We bless thee that we know thou art our Father and that thou dost delight in seeing thy children happy. May they be happy, especially in thee. And may they all be very useful in life, giving unselfish service to the world, causing good fruits, as well as beautiful flowers, to spring up wherever they may tread.—Rev. G. B. F. Hallock, D.D.

## PRAYER AT COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things both in heaven and earth; we invoke thy blessing upon the proceedings in which we are now engaged. May we all be duly impressed with the dignity and necessity of the educational work of our city and land. We pray especially for thy protection upon those, who, leaving their school days behind, are about to go forth to meet the sterner duties of maturer life. Let thy mercy ever be with them. Direct them in all their doings with thy most gracious favor and further them with thy continual help; and grant that thou being their ruler and guide, they may so pass through things temporal that they lose not finally the things eternal. And may we all as members of this community manifest an interest in speech and action toward our youth. Bless, we pray thee, our public schools, their officers, teachers and pupils; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR NURSES

(Suitable for Commencement at a Training School for Nurses, or any gathering of those who care for the sick.)

O eternal God, our refuge, whose everlasting arms are underneath our burdened lives; regard, we beseech thee, our supplications for these, thy servants, who care for the sick as nurses. Help them, we humbly pray thee, by the gracious aid of thine almighty power. Give them patience and endurance amid their trying labors. Sustain them through temptations that are ever present. Guard them in their purity of body and innocence of soul, and let their hands be strong, and their hearts willing to tenderly minister the sacred offices entrusted to their care. Reflect through them the light of hope to suffering souls. Touch with thy grace their healing hand, that the sick may revive. Make thou, through them, the bed of pain comfortable, and reveal in their sacred ministry to the dying the vision of the life eternal. These things, and whatever else a faithful nurse may need, grant to give through the merits of Him who suffered, even our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

## PRAYER AT COMMENCEMENT OF TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES

O God, our heavenly Father, who by the words and life of thy dear Son, hast taught us to minister to thy suffering children; grant to these young women, now graduating from this Training School, thy spirit and thy grace. Strengthen them for the duties of their vocation, defend them from the dangers which beset their way, and make them a blessing to those in need. Save them from proud self-confidence, and from shrinking timidity. Inspire them with a pitiful and sympathizing spirit, which shall make them gentle and kind in all their ministrations. Give them self-control and patience. Grant them the spirit of faithfulness to the order of the homes in which they serve, and loyalty to those who direct their services. May they abstain from self-assertiveness, vanity and pride, and show a willingness to do cheerfully the humblest service for thy children. Make them to honor thee by the purity and gentleness of their characters, and the self-forgetfulness and efficiency of their lives. Strengthen them in their weakness, graciously answer their prayers for guidance, and in all their troubles wilt thou give them thy peace. May they have abundantly of their patients' gratitude and of the rewards of a good conscience for work faithfully done,

and at the last great day of recompense may they receive from the lips of their Redeemer the blessed commendation, "Inasmuch as ye did this service in my Name, ye did it unto me, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Grant this, O Father, for thine own mercy's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER AT GRADUATION OF DOCTORS AND NURSES

We praise thee, O God, for our friends, the doctors and nurses, who seek the healing of our bodies. We bless thee for their gentleness and patience, for their knowledge and skill. We remember the hours of our suffering when they brought relief, and the days of our fear and anguish at the bedside of our dear ones when they came as ministers of God to save the life thou hast given. May we reward their fidelity and devotion by our loving gratitude, and do thou uphold them by the satisfaction of work well done.

We rejoice in the tireless daring with which some are now tracking the great slayers of mankind by the white light of science. Grant that under their teaching we may grapple with the sins which have ever dealt death to the race, and that we may so order the life of our communities that none may be doomed to an untimely death for lack of the simple gifts which thou hast given in abundance. Make thou our doctors the prophets and soldiers of thy kingdom, which is the reign of cleanliness and self-restraint and the dominion of health and joyous life.

Strengthen in their whole profession the consciousness that their calling is holy and that they, too, are disciples of the saving Christ. May they never through the pressure of need or ambition surrender the sense of a divine mission and become hirelings who serve only for money. Make them doubly faithful in the service of the poor who need their help most sorely, and may the children of the workingman be as precious to them as the child of the rich. Though they deal with the frail body of man, may they have an abiding sense of the eternal value of the life residing in it, that by the call of faith and hope they may summon to their aid the mysterious spirit of man and the powers of thy all-pervading life.—Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch.

## PRAYER AT LAW SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

O Lord, thou art the eternal order of the universe. Our human laws at best are but an approximation to thine immutable law, and if our institutions are to stand, they must rest on justice, for only justice can endure. We beseech thee for the men who are set to make and interpret the laws of our nation. Grant to all lawyers a deep consciousness that they are called of God to see justice done, and that they prostitute a holy duty if ever they connive in its defeat. Fill them with a high determination to make the courts of our land a strong fortress of defense for the poor and weak, and never a castle of oppression for the hard and cunning.

Save them from surrendering the dear-bought safeguards of the people for which our fathers fought and suffered. Revive in them the spirit of the great liberators of the past that they may cleanse our law of the inherited wrongs that still cling to it. Suffer not the web of outgrown precedents to veil their moral vision, but grant them a penetrating eye for the rights and wrongs of to-day and a quick human sympathy with the life and sufferings of the people. May they not perpetuate the tangles of the law for the profit of their profession. Aid them to make its course so simple, and its justice so swift and sure, that the humblest may safely trust it and the strongest fear it. Grant them wisdom so to re-fashion all law that it may become the true expression of the fairer ideals of freedom and brotherhood which are now seeking their incarnation in a new age. Make these, our brothers, the wise interpreters of thine eternal law, the brave spokesmen of thy will, and in reward bestow upon them the joy of conscious fellowship with thy Christ in saving man from the bondage of ancient wrong.—Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch.

## PRAYER AT INAUGURATION OF COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, thou who lightenest every man that cometh into the world, enlighten our hearts and minds with the favor of thy countenance while we wait before thee this day. Let thy divine favor rest upon this institution of learning, upon all its faculty, its graduates, its present students, its friends and supporters, and upon thy servant to be inducted into the Presidency this day. Bless

the cause of sound learning everywhere. And thou, O Lord, who hast commanded us to prove all things and hold fast that which is good, who hast told us to buy the truth and hast promised that it shall make us free, we thank thee that men are going to and fro and that knowledge is being increased. We thank thee that the sun of knowledge is shining and that the clouds of ignorance are being scattered. We bless thy Name for all that knowledge has done and is doing now for the well-being of mankind, in the spread of material comfort among men, in the prevention and cure of disease, in the promotion of good feeling, in social service and philanthropic effort, in improved manners, in refined living, in the advance of morals, in elevated tastes, and in the emancipating power of the truth that delivers man from the tyranny of appetite; that tells him to seek the pleasures of the mind; that teaches him to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and that bids him bring forth the fruits of the Spirit in love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, and faith. Send out thy light and thy truth that with growing knowledge there may be greater faith, and so promote the holy alliance between the two that men shall not be satisfied with either an ignorant faith or an unbelieving knowledge. We ask through Christ, our Saviour. Amen.—G. B. F. H.

## PRAYER FOR A MILITARY SCHOOL

Lord Jesus Christ, the Captain of our salvation, the Prince of Peace, we beseech thee to inspire the members of this school with the true spirit of obedience, and an ardent devotion to the training of the body, mind and spirit in thy fear and for thy holy service. Help them to walk in the way of thy commandments, and to grow into the likeness of thy perfect manhood. Strengthen them with might by thy Spirit in the inner man for the duties of the life before them, with loyalty and devotion to their country, and with fortitude in all trials and temptations; and grant them so to lay to heart the lessons of their training and discipline, that they may persevere in fighting against sin, the world and the devil, and continue thy faithful soldiers and servants to thy honor and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR STUDENTS OF MUSIC

Lord God, exalted in majesty and glorious in praises, we ask that thy blessing may rest upon those who are here pursuing the study of music. Fill them with the enthusiasm of those eminent masters who gave themselves body, and soul and spirit to the cultivation of noble ideals, and were rewarded by attaining the admiration and benediction of generations of men. Help them to be courageous under all difficulties, to surmount every obstacle, to be patient with every musical detail, to aim at high results, to be industrious and vigilant and in the end to reach superiority and supremacy in their chosen art. Above all, attune their souls with divine harmonies, so that at the last they may join in the endless praises around thy throne in heaven. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR ART STUDENTS

O Lord God, who hast given to man many gifts to be used to thy glory; grant to all persons who are engaged in art pursuits reverent and teachable minds, that they may see thee in thy works, and in all their productions manifest their loyalty to the truth. Help them to be conscientious and faithful, and give them results that shall minister to their usefulness, as well as purify and elevate those who are influenced by their artistic conceptions; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## LABOR DAY PRAYER

O God, thou mightiest worker of the universe, source of all strength and author of all unity, we pray thee for our brothers, the industrial workers of the nation. As their work binds them together in common toil and danger, may their hearts be knit together in a strong sense of their common interests and destiny. Help them to realize that the injury of one is the concern of all, and that the welfare of all must be the aim of every one. If any of them is tempted to sell the birthright of his class for a mess of pottage for himself, give him a wider outlook and a nobler sympathy with his fellows. Teach them to keep step in a steady onward

march, and in their own way to fulfill the law of Christ by bearing the common burdens.

Grant the organizations of labor quiet patience and prudence in all disputes, and fairness to see the other side. Save them from malice and bitterness. Save them from the headlong folly which ruins a fair cause, and give them wisdom resolutely to put aside the two-edged sword of violence that turns on those that seize it. Raise up from them still more leaders of able mind and large heart, and give them grace to follow the wiser counsel.

When they strive for leisure and health and a better wage, do thou grant their cause success, but teach them not to waste their gain on fleeting passions, but to use it in building fairer homes and a nobler manhood. Grant all classes of our nation a larger comprehension for the aspirations of labor and for the courage and worth of these, our brothers, that we may cheer them in their struggles and understand them even in their sins. And may the upward climb of Labor, its defeats and its victories, in the farther reaches bless all classes of our nation, and build up for the republic of the future a great body of workers, strong of limb, clear of mind, fair in temper, glad to labor, conscious of their worth, and striving together for the final brotherhood of all men. Amen.—REV. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH.

## LABOR DAY PRAYER

O God, our Creator and Ruler, who hast provided the day for labor and the night for rest; give us obedient hearts for thy service, that we may cheerfully accomplish what thou givest us to do. Bless all upright employers and faithful laborers. Secure to them their just recompense of reward. Defeat the schemes of dishonesty, extortion and fraud. Let none take of the people's inheritance by oppression, to thrust them out of their possession. Save our country from the tyranny of wealth, from reckless waste of treasure, from covetousness, from oppressive legislation, from unrighteous discrimination between man and man, and from conditions that promote antagonism between the rich and the poor. Have mercy upon those who struggle in sore need of subsistence, and grant them relief. Change the hearts of those who deal unjustly with their fellow-men. Deliver them that are oppressed out of the hand of the oppressor. Keep us

and all thy children from greed and duplicity, from malice and from every evil work. Let us not make gold our hope nor trust in uncertain riches, but in thee, the living God. Supply our temporal needs and let us not fail to lay up abiding treasure with thee. Make us true to the teachings and example of our blessed Redeemer, so that by word and deed we may advance the interests of his kingdom among men; and grant that when our work is done we shall have rest with thee; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## LABOR DAY PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, who hast said: My Father worketh hitherto, and I work; grant us so to labor diligently while it is called to-day, that, when the night cometh wherein no man can work, we may enter into the rest which remaineth for the children of God. Through thy great mercy we ask it. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR WOMEN WHO TOIL

O God, we pray thee for our sisters who are leaving the ancient shelter of the home to earn their wage in the factory and the store amid the press of modern life. Save them from the strain of unremitting toil that would unfit them for the holy duties of home and motherhood which the future may lay upon them. Give them grace to cherish under the new surroundings the old sweetness and gentleness of womanhood, and in the rough mingling of life to keep their hearts pure and their lives untarnished. Save them from the terrors of utter want. Teach them to stand loyally by their sisters, that by united action they may better their common lot.

If it must be so that our women toil like men, help us still to reverence in them the mothers of the future. But make us determined to shield them from unequal burdens, that the women of our nation be not drained of strength and hope for the enrichment of a few, lest our homes grow poor in the wifely sweetness and motherly love which have been the saving strength and glory of our country. To such as yearn for the love and sovereign freedom of their own home, grant in due time the fulfillment of their sweet desires. By Mary, the beloved, who bore the world's redemption in her bosom; by the memory of our own dear mothers who kissed our

souls awake; by the little daughters who must soon go out into that world which we are now fashioning for others, we beseech thee that we may deal aright by all women. Amen. —Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch.

## PRAYER FOR CHILDREN WHO WORK

O thou great Father of the weak, lay thy hand tenderly on all the little children on earth and bless them. Bless our own children, who are life of our life, and who have become the heart of our heart. Bless every little child-friend that has leaned against our knee and refreshed our soul by its smiling trustfulness. Be good to all children who long in vain for human love, or for flowers and water, and the sweet breast of Nature. But bless with a sevenfold blessing the young lives whose slender shoulders are already bowed beneath the yoke of toil, and whose glad growth is being stunted forever. Suffer not their little bodies to be utterly sapped, and their minds to be given over to stupidity and the vices of an empty soul. We have all jointly deserved the millstone of thy wrath for making these little ones to stumble and fall. Grant all employers of labor stout hearts to refuse enrichment at such a price. Grant to all the citizens and officers of states which now permit this wrong the grace of holy anger. Help us to realize that every child of our nation is in very truth our child, a member of our great family. By the Holy Child that nestled in Mary's bosom; by the memories of our own childhood joys and sorrows; by the sacred possibilities that slumber in every child, we beseech thee to save us from killing the sweetness of young life by the greed of gain. Amen.—Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch.

## PRAYER FOR EMPLOYERS OF LABOR

We invoke thy grace and wisdom, O Lord, upon all men of good will who employ and control the labor of men. Amid the numberless irritations and anxieties of their position, help them to keep a quiet and patient temper and to rule firmly and wisely, without harshness and anger. Since they hold power over the bread, the safety, and the hopes of the workers, may they wield their powers justly and with love, as older brothers and leaders in the great fellowship of

labor. Suffer not the heavenly light of compassion for the weak and the old to be quenched in their hearts. When they are tempted to follow the ruthless ways of others, and to sacrifice human health and life for profit, do thou strengthen their will in the hour of need, and bring to naught the counsels of the heartless. Save them from repressing their workers into sullen submission and helpless fear. May they not sin against the Christ by using the bodies and souls of men as mere tools to make things, forgetting the human hearts and longings of these, their brothers.

Raise up among us employers who shall be makers of men as well as of goods. Give us masters of industry who will use their higher ability and knowledge in lifting the workers to increasing independence and vigor, and who will train their helpers for the larger responsibilities of the coming age. Give us men of faith who will see beyond the strife of the present and catch a vision of a nobler organization of our work, when all will still follow the leadership of the ablest, not in fear but by the glad will of all, and when none shall be master and none shall be man, but all shall stand side by side in a strong and righteous brotherhood of work. Amen.—Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch.

## PRAYER FOR MEN IN BUSINESS

We plead with thee, O God, for our brothers who are pressed by the cares and beset by the temptations of business life. We acknowledge before thee our common guilt for the hardness and deceitfulness of industry and trade which lead us all into temptation and cause even the righteous to slip and fall. As long as man is set against man in a struggle for wealth, help the men in business to make their contest, as far as may be, a test of excellence, by which even the defeated may be spurred to better work. If any man is pitted against those who have forgotten fairness and honesty, help him to put his trust resolutely in the profitableness of sincerity and uprightness, and, if need be, to accept loss rather than follow on crooked paths.

Establish in unshaken fidelity all who hold in trust the savings of others. Since the wealth and welfare of our nation are controlled by our business men, cause them to realize that they serve not themselves alone, but hold high public functions, and do thou save them from betraying the interests of

the many for their own enrichment, lest a new tyranny grow up in a land that is dedicated to freedom. Grant them far-sighted patriotism to subordinate their profits to the public weal, and a steadfast determination to transform the disorder of the present into the nobler and freer harmony of the future. May thy Spirit, O God, which is ceaselessly pleading within us, prevail at last to bring our business life under Christ's law of service, so that all who share in the processes of factory and trade may grow up into that high consciousness of a divine calling which blesses those who are the free servants of God and the people and who consciously devote their strength to the common good. Amen.—REV. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH.

## PRAYER FOR IMMIGRANTS

O thou great champion of the outcast and the weak, we remember before thee the people of other nations who are coming to our land, seeking bread, a home, and a future. May we look with thy compassion upon those who have been drained and stunted by the poverty and oppression of centuries, and whose minds have been warped by superstition or seared by the dumb agony of revolt. We bless thee for all that America has meant to the alien folk that have crossed the sea in the past, and for all the patient strength and God-fearing courage with which they have enriched our nation. We rejoice in the millions whose life has expanded in the wealth and liberty of our country, and whose children have grown to fairer stature and larger thoughts; for we, too, are the children of immigrants, who came with anxious hearts and halting feet on the westward path of hope.

We beseech thee that our republic may no longer fail their trust. We mourn for the dark sins of past and present, wherein men who are held in honor among us made spoil of the ignorance and helplessness of the strangers and sent them to an early death. In a nation dedicated to liberty may they not find the old oppression and a fiercer greed. May they never find that the arm of the law is but the arm of the strong. Help our whole people henceforth to keep in leash the cunning that would devour the simple. May they feel here the pure air of freedom and face the morning radiance of a joyous hope.

For all the oppressed afar off who sigh for liberty; for all

lovers of the people who strive to break their shackles; for all who dare to believe in democracy and the Kingdom of God, make thou our great commonwealth once more a sure beacon-light of hope and a guide on the path which leads to the perfect union of law and liberty. Amen.—REV. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH.

## PRAYER FOR EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYED

O God, merciful and just; we humbly beseech thee to sanctify the hearts of those who are in positions of authority and influence, that they may act justly toward all who are in their employ. Keep them from the spirit of oppression and wrong, and from the forgetfulness of others. Help them to be tender-hearted to the suffering, liberal to the needy, and in all their dealings considerate and humane. Incline them rightly to use the influence thou hast given them, that at last they may give an account of their stewardship with joy and thankfulness.

And Almighty God, who hast made toil honorable among all men; we pray thee to bestow thy blessing upon those classes in the community who are engaged in the industries of life. Rectify whatever may be oppressive and unjust in their lot, and give them patience and contentment. Deliver them from rebellion and violence, and dispose them and their employers to peaceful measures that shall result in mutual concessions for their common interests. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR MECHANICS

Heavenly Father, we entreat thee to watch over and bless those of thy children who are given to daily toil. Be with them in their efforts of sustaining themselves and their families. Keep them from privations, and supply all their wants. Give them a contented spirit, and an abiding interest in spiritual things. Confirm them in churchgoing habits and duties and in an increasing love of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Grant, blessed Lord, to all who are called to cultivate the soil a sense of the dignity and privilege of their work. By

the evenness of their lives and their freedom from the temptations peculiar to large cities, may they have greater opportunities for the cultivation of their spiritual natures, to thy honor and their everlasting good; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR BUSINESS MEN

Ever blessed God, who doth commend the hand of the diligent; grant that thy blessing may rest upon those who are in the business ranks of life. Give them strong convictions concerning personal integrity and influence and such boldness in doing right that their examples may never be questioned. So direct them, that they may in their dealings exemplify the consistency of the Christian religion, and always give the first place to thy law and commandments. Through their exalted lives may thy Church be honored and many souls be turned to righteousness; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR MINERS

Grant, O Lord, that they who labor in the darkness of mines may not be so buried in earthly thoughts as to lose sight of the glory of the Sun of righteousness; but rather make both them and us so to acknowledge the darkness of our earthly condition that we may rise in heart and mind to the contemplation of thy glory, declared to us by thine only begotten Son, and hereafter ascend to dwell in the light of thy countenance; through the merits of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Saviour. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(In September, when the schools are opening, the pastor should remember them in his pulpit prayers. There is suggestion in the following):

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in thee; mercifully accept the prayer we offer in behalf of our public schools. May peace be within them. May all the influences that are exerted be towards the promotion of uprightness, purity and sound learning. To the teachers, grant, O Lord,

an adequate appreciation of the magnitude of their task. In the routine of their school duties let them not become weary; and if, from sameness of method or repetition, their work should ever seem dull, inspire them with fresh interest in view of its purpose. Help them to realize what is to be expected from the education of the children committed to their hands. Working for the future, may they maintain that endless patience which is required; working for humanity, may they keep awake in themselves that enthusiasm which the thought inspires; working with precious intelligences for thee and eternity, may they never lose hope that thy blessing will at the last crown their labors. Guard the pupils of our schools, O heavenly Father, from the contagion of evil habits of every name which war against body, mind and soul. May the foundations of character and of all subsequent development be securely planted within them, and that wise preparation go on which shall fit them to take their places intelligently among those who conduct the activities of our land. And to all upon whom the important trust has fallen of supervising the work of education, impart, we beseech thee, the judgment to plan wisely and to execute well. May they never surrender to any personal or lower interest the right management of what so intimately concerns the best interests of our government and the graver welfare of immortal souls. These things we ask, with whatever else thou shalt see necessary or convenient for us, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR TEACHERS

We implore thy blessing, O God, on all the men and women who teach the children and youth of our nation, for they are the potent friends and helpers of our homes. Into their hands we daily commit the dearest that we have, and as they make our children, so shall future years see them. Grant them an abiding consciousness that they are co-workers with thee, thou great teacher of humanity, and that thou hast charged them with the holy duty of bringing forth from the budding life of the young the mysterious stores of character and ability which thou hast hidden in them. Teach them to reverence the young lives, clean and plastic which have newly come from thee, and to realize that generations still unborn shall rue their sloth or rise to higher levels through their

wisdom and faithfulness. Gird them for their sake with thy patience and tranquillity, with a great fatherly and motherly love, for the young, and with special tenderness for the backward and afflicted. Save them from physical exhaustion, from loneliness and discouragement, from the numbness of routine and from all bitterness of heart.

We bless thee for the free and noble spirit that is breathing with quickening power upon the educational life of our day, and for the men and women of large mind and loving heart who have made that spirit our common possession by their teaching and example. But grant that a higher obedience and self-restraint may grow in the new atmosphere of freedom. We remember with gratitude to thee the godly teachers of our own youth who won our hearts to higher purposes by the sacred contagion of their life. May the strength and beauty of Christ-like service still be plainly wrought in the lives of their successors, that our children may not want for strong models of devout manhood on whom their characters can be molded.

Do thou reward thy servants with a glad sense of their own eternal worth as teachers of the race, and in the heat of the day do thou show them the spring by the wayside that flows from the eternal silence of God and gives new light to the eyes of all who drink of it.—REV. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH.

## PRAYER FOR ALL TEACHERS

(Such a prayer is suitable at Commencement time, on Education Day, at the time of the opening of the schools in the Fall, or when visiting a school. It can be used as it is, or embodied in the usual pastoral prayer on suitable occasions.)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who art the fountain of all grace, grant, we beseech thee, to all teachers thy gifts of wisdom, gentleness, and patience. May they find their work a joy, and count all labor light that is undertaken out of love for thee. Guard them from the temptation to a careless and half-hearted service. May the remembrance of the solemn duty, as well as privilege, which is theirs be always present with them. Bless their words to the good of the pupils committed to their care; and may thy Holy Spirit so enforce the teaching given by them that, at the last, the

reward which thou hast promised those who turn many to righteousness shall be theirs. All of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE GROWTH OF KNOWLEDGE

O thou Eternal One, we adore thee who in all ages hast been the great companion and teacher of mankind; for thou hast lifted our race from the depths, and hast made us to share in thy conscious intelligence and thy will that makes for righteousness and love. Thou alone art our Redeemer, for thy lifting arms were about us and thy persistent voice was in our hearts as we slowly climbed up from savage darkness and cruelty. Thou knowest how often we have resisted thee and loved the easy ways of sin rather than the toilsome gain of self-control and the divine irritation of thy truth.

O God, visit not upon us the guilt of the past, for our fathers have slain thy prophets. They silenced the voices that spoke thine onward thought, and generations have perished in soddenness and misery because the strong once quenched the light of truth. Do thou free humanity at last from the blood-rusted chains with which the past still binds us. Multiply the God-conquered souls who open their hearts gladly to the light that makes us free, for all creation shall be in travail till these sons of God attain their glory.

We pray thee for those who amid all the knowledge of our day are still without knowledge; for those who hear not the sighs of the children that toil, nor the sobs of such as are wounded because others have made haste to be rich; for those who have never felt the hot tears of mothers of the poor that struggle vainly against poverty and vice. Arouse them, we beseech thee, from their selfish comfort and grant them the grace of social repentance. Smite us all with the conviction that for us ignorance is sin; and that we are indeed our brother's keeper if our own hand has helped to lay him low. Though increase of knowledge bring increase of sorrow, may we turn without flinching to the light and offer ourselves as instruments of thy Spirit in bringing order and beauty out of disorder and darkness.—Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch.

## PRAYER BEFORE ELECTION DAY

(If the election is a Presidential one the words can be changed so as to include these, "especially that thou wouldst guide our choice of Chief Magistrate and all others for places of serious trust in the State and Nation.")

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast cast our lot in this land of civil and religious liberty, give us, we beseech thee, a true sense of our privileges and responsibilities as a nation and a people. Especially as in this week upon which we have entered we are about to make choice of those who are to fill positions of trust and authority may we be guided by the highest motives of patriotism and unselfishness. Help us to select faithful and conscientious men, who regard love of country more than partisanship, honesty more than greed, duty more than ambition, integrity more than office and the good of others more than personal advancement. Be pleased to give to all who are directing the affairs of the State and Nation the spirit to discern between the good and the evil, the right and the wrong, and the true and the false to the end that our country may be exalted in righteousness, thy Church enlarged and thy blessed name glorified. We ask all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## A CIVIC PRAYER

O God, we pray thee for this, the city of our love and pride. We rejoice in her spacious beauty and her busy ways of commerce, in her stores and factories where hand joins hand in toil, and in her blessed homes where heart joins heart for rest and love.

Help us to make our city the mighty common workshop of our people, where every one will find his place and task, in daily achievement building up his own life to resolute manhood, keen to do his best with hand and mind. Help us to make our city the greater home of our people, where all may live their lives in comfort, unafraid, loving their loves in peace and rounding out their years in strength.

Bind our citizens, not by the bond of money and of profit alone, but by the glow of neighborly good-will, by the thrill of common joys, and the pride of common possessions. As

we set the greater aims for the future of our city, may we remember that her true wealth and greatness consist, not in the abundance of the things we possess, but in the justice of her institutions and the brotherhood of her children. Make her rich in her sons and daughters and famous through the lofty passions that inspire them.

We thank thee for the patriot men and women of the past whose generous devotion to the common good has been the making of our city. Grant that our own generation may build worthily on the foundation they have laid. If in the past there have been some who have sold the city's good for private gain, staining her honor by their cunning and greed, fill us, we beseech thee, with the righteous anger of true sons that we may purge out the shame lest it taint the future years.

Grant us a vision of our city, fair as she might be; a city of justice, where none shall prey on others; a city of plenty, where vice and poverty shall cease to fester; a city of brotherhood, where all success shall be founded on service, and honor shall be given to nobleness alone; a city of peace, where order shall not rest on force, but on the love of all for the city, the great mother of the common life and weal. Hear thou, O Lord, the silent prayer of all our hearts as we each pledge our time and strength and thought to speed the day of her coming beauty and righteousness.—Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch.

## INVOCATION AT THANKSGIVING SERVICE (1)

Almighty God, Ruler of all nations, we enter into thy gates with thanksgiving and into thy courts with praise. We know that the Lord he is God and that he hath made us and not we ourselves. Thou hast not dealt so with any nation. Father of mercies, thine own open hand dispensing blessings unnumbered has filled our year with goodness. We thank thee, we praise thee, we bless thee. Thine is the glory—ours is the joy. We come up to this Thanksgiving Day, and we bring with us failures, excuses, sins, but we bring also honest effort for our Lord. We thank thee for the failures. They have been our teachers. We thank thee for the successes, and we pray thee to forgive us for the sins, and grant that our efforts for good may be acceptable to thee, and that our lives may cause some other life to praise thee.

Forgive us our national sins and shortcomings, our Father. Save us from the lust of power and from pride. Train us up as a chosen people to accomplish thy purpose. Pour out upon us thy Holy Spirit, and may our sons and daughters prophesy, our young men see visions and our old men dream dreams. So may we become a great nation in righteousness and great in thy service.

Graciously draw us all into closer kinship with thyself. Save us from slothfulness in thy service. Deliver us from the infidelity of sin, and from the snare of the world, the flesh and the evil one. May our family life be sweet and holy, and may the Lord break the bread of life to us at every common meal.

These mercies we ask through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who has taught us to pray—"Our Father, etc."—H.

## INVOCATION AT THANKSGIVING SERVICE (2)

O God, our heavenly Father, we have heard thy call to come to thy house and we accept thine invitation with eagerness as to a feast of joy and gladness. Here we are in company with thee, and in warm fellowship with one another. We have the uplift of song, the cordial of prayer, the inspiration of truth, the inward quickening of thy Spirit. Stir, then, our hearts to unfeigned and unconquerable rejoicing. Constrain us consciously to take our rightful places as children of the King and heirs of all things. Forgive our sins; cleanse our hearts; renew our wills; exalt our aims, and help us to love the things that are good and true. Sweep out from our hearts the gloom of doubt and ignorance, and the blackness of envy, dislikes and petty grudges. Teach us to find life a feast and not a fast. Make duty a joy. Send us hence on winged feet. Send us out into the world with elastic spirit and abundant hope. So intoxicate us with the splendors of thy grace—and thus our privilege and prospects in Jesus Christ—that no sorrow can overwhelm us, no disappointment or mishap embitter us, even for a moment. Let us not discredit thee by walking with souls stooped, hearts dismayed, and faces hung with crape. Lord, touch us into life; and deliver us from the shameful sin of nursing regret and coddling bitterness of spirit. Let every countenance be like the morning and every life radiant and winsome. In the Name of Christ our Lord. Amen.—"Our Father," etc.

## INVOCATION AT THANKSGIVING SERVICE (3)

Almighty God, Ruler of all nations, we would indeed enter into thy gates with thanksgiving and into thy courts with praise. We know that the Lord he is God, and that he hath made us and not we ourselves. Thou art our Creator, our Preserver and our bountiful Benefactor. We would call upon our souls and all that is within us to bless and magnify thy holy name. Thou hast not dealt so with any nation. We see thy hand in all our nation's history. And now our fields have waved with wheat and corn and our barns are full. Peace has protected our borders and pestilence has not invaded our land. The nation stands solid in its unity, and brotherhood binds our people together. For all our manifold blessings, national as well as personal, we thank thee and praise thy glorious Name.

But in the midst of our thanksgiving we would remember our sins. May thy great goodness lead us to repentance. Forgive, O forgive, our national sins and shortcomings. Save us from forgetfulness of thee. Save us from the lust of power and of pride. Train us up as a chosen people to accomplish thy purpose. Pour out upon us thy Holy Spirit and may our sons and daughters prophesy, our young men see visions and our old men dream dreams. So may we become a great nation in righteousness and great in thy service.

And this we ask in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray: "Our Father," etc.—H.

## A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

O thou whose gifts are endless and whose grace is free, we thank thee for our lives and for thy love. That love explains the world. The beauty of the earth and sea, the glory of the boundless sky, the wealth of treasure for the hand of man, the greater wealth of mind and soul, all, all are tokens of thy more than friendly care. If we are free, thy truth hath made us so. If we have peace, it is because thy Spirit causes us to rest. If plenty fills our bins, thy sun and rain have been our slaves. So at our feasts, we lift glad hands of faith to thee. May graceless meat not be our sin to-day.

Cause us to ask our fathers whence their strength to fight and build. May we look back and plainly see the origin of things—the faith that laid the state's foundations deep; the

power of prayer that kept the martyrs strong and made them prophets of the coming age; the patience which endured that we might be the heirs of freedom and the sons of light; the hope that beckoned every pilgrim on the path to present safety and content.

For all the good and great of spirit and brain; for all who ever sought or still do seek the secrets of thy Word; for all to whom thy works are as a volume to be read, we give thee glory and exalt thy name.

For mercies great and small; for friendships near and far; for triumphs of the truth; for conquests by the Cross; for growing faith of man in man; for lips that laugh, and tongues that sing, and eyes that glow, and tears that cleanse the heart, and death that opens wide the gates of life, we give thee thanks. Yea, for the clearer sight of things unseen which we acquire as years go by and ages come on, and for the light that waxes brighter as the sun goes down, we praise thee this Thanksgiving Day. Thou art our gracious Saviour and our God. We are thy children and we give thee praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.—REV. CHARLES C. ALBERTSON, D.D.

## GRATITUDE AND PETITIONS

To thee, O Author of our lives, we speak thanksgiving and gratitude for thy gifts of love and trust. Help us to bring them into full exercise this day. By them may we know the experience of burdens made light and yokes made easy. With them let us realize that we are effective workers with thee. Because of them show us how all our tasks are transformed to divine endeavors. Through them set free all other of our highest impulses. So, O God, shall we know the fullness of life, we and all our loved ones. So shall we see doubt change to faith and blindness to vision. So shall our influence through word and work be the ministry of hope and of joy to any disconsolate, and to any who are weak guides to the source of strength. For newness of life, for all the fruits of the Spirit, whereby the heart is ever young and in joyous companionship with the Christ, for all this we pray now and ever. Amen.—WILLIAM H. MCGLAUGHLIN.

## A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Almighty God we thank thee for the spirit of praise. We thank thee if we can discern the signs of thy providence upon the common road. We thank thee if we have not forgotten the miracle of yesterday and its sacred lesson for to-day. But if our gratitude is scanty because our remembrance is faint, let thy Holy Spirit quicken our memories that we may recover the lost revelation, and may come into thy presence in the multitude of thy mercies.

We thank thee for thy Church. We adore thee for her communion in Christ Jesus. We bless thee for the Blood of the Vine in which she bears her fruit. We glorify thee for the radiant record of her triumph, for her miracles of grace, for her cloud of witnesses, for her martyrs who have been faithful unto death. We thank thee for her prophets of the Word, for her sweet singers who by their hymns have enriched our devotion and for all her unnamed laborers who have toiled in obscure parts of the field. We bless thee for her inheritance. We thank thee for her inconceivable wealth and glory which is yet to be revealed. Graciously deepen her purity. Baptize her with the holy fire of passionate love, and deign with her to hasten thy Kingdom from above.

We thank thee for our country. We bless thee for all her hallowed privileges and freedom. We praise thee for all her men and women who have consecrated their strength to her highest good. We thank thee for enlightened laws, for all wise restrictions of personal liberty, for all that is creative of comradeship between man and man. We bless thee for all larger vision, for wider fraternal sympathy, for the aspiration that seeks the peace and good-will of the race. God bless the President and all who share the government of the realm. Endue them with thy Holy Spirit, and use them as thy ministers in the kingdom of thy truth.

Graciously draw us all into closer kinship with thyself. Save us from slothfulness in thy service. Deliver us from the infidelity of sin, and from the snare of the world, the flesh and the devil. May our family life be sweet and holy, and may the Lord break the Bread of Life at the common meal.

These mercies we ask through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.—Rev. John Henry Jowett, D.D.

## PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life, but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

## A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Hear us, O God, our Father, as we count our blessings; the love of parents, the affection of brothers and sisters, the gift of children, the sympathy of friends, the bounties of the table, the comforts and luxuries of our homes; the opportunities for work and service, opportunity for wholesome pleasure and culture of mind and soul, good neighbors; the wonderful beauty of our earth, the marvelous splendors of the sky, sunshine, rain, flowers, birds, trees; our native land, its prosperity and peace, our democracy, its spirit of progress and altruism; the fellowship of the church of Christ, forgiveness of sin, the new birth, adoption as sons of God, ideals of sacrifice and service, the hope of immortality; and the revelation of thyself in Christ, his ministry of comfort, his power, making all things work together for good, his presence with us now and throughout the coming year.

The count is not ended, nor could it ever end, for thou dost add blessing every moment of our lives.

The reason for counting our blessings is that we might say, "We thank thee." Amen.—Rev. M. K. W. Heicher, Ph.D.

## THANKSGIVING PRAYER

O God, infinite in wisdom, power, and goodness! We acknowledge thee the Creator of all things in the heavens above,

in the earth beneath, and in the paths of the sea. We adore thee for the greatness and beauty of thy works. We adore thy loving-kindness, that thou hast made them subservient to the wants and happiness of thy children. What is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou visitest him? Thou hast given him dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowls of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. Thou hast given to him for meat every moving thing that liveth, and every herb yielding seed, and every fruit-tree yielding fruit after its kind. Thou hast crowned us with mercy and loving-kindness.

We praise thee for thy gracious promise of old, that while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease. Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it. Thou sendest the springs into the valleys which run among the hills. Thou causest the grass to grow for all cattle, and herb for the service of man, that he may bring forth fruit out of the earth. Thou makest the furrows of the field soft with showers; thou blessest the springing thereof. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; thy clouds drop fatness; they drop upon the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side. O Lord! how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all.

We praise thee, O Lord! not only in the riches of thy bounty and compassion, but also in thy righteous judgments. Thou openest thy hand, and we are filled with good; thou hidest thy face, and we are troubled. But we know that in thy wrath thou rememberest mercy; and we acknowledge thy long-suffering and thy loving-kindness. Give us grace to believe that whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth; and ever enable us to offer unto thee, in spirit and in truth, the prayer of thy holy prophet: Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; yet we will rejoice in the Lord; we will joy in the God of our salvation.

For ourselves and our country, O Gracious God! we thank thee: that notwithstanding our manifold transgressions of thy holy laws, thou hast continued unto us thy marvelous kind-

ness; that thou hast given us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. These have been witnesses of thy great goodness, for they certify of thee that thou art the living God. Teach us to believe with a strong faith that thou art Lord of the seasons: that thou biddest the earth to bring forth, and it obeyeth thee. Accept our thanksgivings for all the blessings of the year now drawing to a close; fill our hearts with humility and love, with gratitude and trust; continue thy loving-kindness unto us, and help us to show forth the fruits of grace, in a sincere obedience to his will, through whom all blessings are vouchsafed, thy Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING IN HARVEST

O Lord God Almighty, the fountain of all goodness, by whose word alone all things receive increase and are brought unto perfection, and by whose appointment the fruits of the earth are given for meat unto the children of men; we offer unto thee our praises and thanksgivings that thou hast brought us through the circuit of another year, and that, according to thy promise, seed-time and harvest have not failed. (Thou hast crowned the year with thy goodness; the earth at thy commandment hath brought forth abundantly; and our barns are filled with plenty.) We give thanks unto thy holy name, we rejoice before thee and praise thee for thy goodness to us and to all the creatures of thy hand; for thou art the giver of all good gifts, and unto thee we render glory and praise, even unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost, now and for evermore, world without end. Amen.

## ADVENT SALUTATION

"Behold I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in." Mal. 3:1.

"Unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings." Mal. 4:2.

## ADVENT-TIME INVOCATION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have come to seek thee here in thy sanctuary this (beautiful) holy Sabbath morning. Visit us, we pray thee, in this hour. Our hearts cry out for thee. Soothe and quicken and satisfy us. Our Father, we give thee thanks to-day for the mighty yearning of the human heart for the coming of the Saviour, and for the constant promise of thy Word that he was to come. In our own souls we repeat the humble sighs and panting aspirations of ancient men and ages. We know that our own souls are in darkness and sin without faith in him who comes to bring God to man and man to God. We bless thee for the tribute that we can pay to him from our very sense of need and dependence, and that our hearts can so answer from their wilderness the cry, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." In us may the rough places be made smooth and the crooked straight, the mountains of pride brought low, and the valleys of despondency lifted up. O our Father, prepare thou the way in us now, and may we be ready to welcome anew thy Holy Child, our Saviour from sin—our Saviour from its guilt, its power, its penalty. Amen.—H.

## ADVENT-TIME PRAYER

O God, who hast so loved the world as to give thine only Son for its redemption, grant us joyful hearts as we approach the Advent Time. With angels and spirits of thy saints in glory, we bow before thy throne, O Christ, remembering with thanksgiving that thou wert once a child of Bethlehem. Thou too hast entered by the gates of birth into the mystery of our humanity. By an infant's weakness and the obedience of a son thou hast laid hold upon our mortal life. Thou hast shared its pains and sorrows, its labors and repose. Thou hast known the rest of friendship and the bitterness of misunderstanding. By the fellowship of mother's love in Bethlehem and father's care in Egypt, thy boyhood in the fields of Nazareth, thy handling of the workman's tools and wages, thou hast made thyself our brother. As we bring gifts to others whom thou hast given us for love and care, we offer thee our hearts' thanksgiving and the service of our lives. Our richest gifts are thine. Help us to minister in loving-kindness to our brothers, and let thy peace be multiplied upon

the earth and thy will be accomplished in the affairs of men. Amen.

## CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURAL SALUTATIONS

1. "And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord!"

2. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

## CHRISTMAS INVOCATION PRAYER (1)

Unto thee we come, our Father, on this glad day, to adore thee for the gift of thy Son, our Saviour. While all Christendom kneels around the manger of Bethlehem, send us a new spirit, teach us new songs, give us the very Christmas mind. Turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers; give joy to the hopeless, bring into the right way those who are going astray, give confidence to the trembling ones, free bonded hearts, open blind eyes, unstop deaf ears, and pardon, we beseech thee, pardon all our sins. As on this day we make the hearts of the little children joyous, so, O Merciful Father, let us all become children again, and with simple faith, with trustful hearts, with ready wills, and with pure endeavor may we try to serve thee anew. So shall this blessed birthday of Jesus become the birthday of a new creation and awaken among us all a spirit which beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, and loveth all things that are really lovable. Amen.—H.

## CHRISTMAS INVOCATION PRAYER (2)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in whose grace all our light is born, and in whose love is the fountain of our festivity, mercifully lead us into the holy secret of Christmastide. Take us into the innermost room of its holy joy. Forbid that we should remain in the outer courts, dwelling amid its merely carnal pleasures, satisfied with the merriment that dies with the day, and contented with the happiness that passes

with the fading flower and with the withering leaf. Bring us, our Father, into the eternal things of this blessed season. Bring us into the things that abide, into the love that manifests itself in unfailing good-will, into the joy that rings Christmas bells all the year round. Teach us, our Father, the full meaning of Jesus' birth. Make our hearts to glow with gladness in the great redemption Christ brings us, and with adoring love to him, to thee, to the indwelling Spirit, and to all humankind. From this day let our souls be so fed on Christ that we shall generate the fragrance of his loving-kindness wherever we walk. From this hour let infancy, childhood, helplessness, poverty, and all human need appeal to us with compelling power and draw us into ceaseless and effective service in the name of our Saviour. Amen.—H.

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we pray that thou wilt lead us into the real spirit of the Christmas season. May we not so lose ourselves in material things as to forget the spiritual things. May we find the real satisfaction at thy table. May we discover the springs of true merriment in thy joy. May we seek relaxation in thy peace. May we find the secret of Christmas-tide in the friendship of Christ. May we draw near to our Christmas festivities in his fellowship. May he be a guest in all homes, the center of every party, the inspiration of all our communion together. At the heart of all our celebration may there be the spirit of consecration. Save us from making our Christmas a merely carnal feast and overlooking the Lord himself. May we rather use it to obtain a deeper intimacy with his spirit, hallowing everything by his communion. Bless all the little children. May the light of the Saviour's love fill their hearts as sunshine fills the flowers. Give to us all the spirit of little children, that we may walk with thee in simplicity and in truth. Amen.—John Henry Jowett, D.D.

## ADVENT PRAYER

Almighty God, we beseech thee, grant unto thy people grace that they may wait with vigilance for the advent of thy Son our Lord, that when he shall arise from thy right hand to visit the earth in righteousness and thy people with salvation,

he may not find us sleeping in sin, but diligent in thy service and rejoicing in thy praises, that so we may enter in with him unto the marriage of the Lamb; through his merits, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Most merciful God, who hast so loved the world as to give thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life; vouchsafe unto us, we humbly pray thee, the precious gift of faith, whereby we may know that the Son of God is come; and, being always rooted and grounded in the mystery of the Word made flesh, may have power to overcome the world and gain the blessed immortality of heaven; through the merits of the same incarnate Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

O Almighty God, who by the birth of thy Holy One into the world didst give thy true light to dawn upon our darkness; grant that as thou hast given us to believe in the mystery of his incarnation, and hast made us partakers of the divine nature, so in the world to come we may ever abide with him, in the glory of his kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Part II: INTERCESSIONS FOR SPECIAL PERSONS AND OBJECTS

# Part II: INTERCESSIONS FOR SPECIAL PERSONS AND OBJECTS

## PETITIONS FOR THOSE ABSENT FROM HOME

O God, who art everywhere present, ruling the sea and the land, we entreat thee for (him, her, those) now absent from us. Rescue them from peril, from sickness, from sin, and from death. Cover them as with a shield and sanctify their experience of thy mercy to their eternal profit and joy. In due time return them to their homes, and keep them and us through the journey of this life, that we may all reach our Father's house in peace, through his grace who hath opened the kingdom of heaven to all that believe on his holy Name. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THOSE AT SEA IN A STORM

Thy way is in the sea, O God, and thy paths in the great waters. Thou rulest the raging of the sea; thou stillest the waves thereof when they arise. Thou, the Lord, sittest upon the flood; thou reignest King forever. O Lord God Almighty, who walkest upon the wings of the wind, and bindest the floods from overflowing; mercifully protect thy servants from the perils of the sea, as thou didst save Noah in the ark, Peter when he was sinking, and Paul in the time of shipwreck. Save them. Let not the waterflood drown them. Neither let the deep swallow them up. Stretch thine hand over the sea, and say unto the storm, Peace, be still. Be as a hiding-place from the wind and a covert from the tempest. Save thy servants that they may always praise thy holy name, and when they leave their ships may follow thy Son for evermore. We ask in the name of Christ. Amen.

## PRAYERS FOR PROSPEROUS CROPS

Almighty God, we beseech thy mercy that thou wouldst vouchsafe to bless the lands and multiply the harvests of thy

servants, as thou didst bless those of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that thy servants may have plenty, and that the poor and needy may bless thy glorious Name.

Almighty God, we humbly beseech thy mercy that thou wouldst vouchsafe to bless, sanctify, and water the fields and crops of thy servants, and to defend them from the assaults of the enemy, that thou mayest satisfy their need with the abundance of thy blessing, and that they may offer praises unto thee, who givest food to all.

Almighty and everlasting God, ruler of the universe, who governest the world which hangeth upon nothing, and who hast commanded us to till the land with our labor for the support of mankind and the sustenance of the body; we humbly beseech thy mercy that thou wouldst graciously look upon whatsoever good seed is sown or planted in the fields; give temperate weather, keep them from all weeds and thorns, make the crops plentiful, and grant that they may arrive at full perfection, that we, thy servants, thankfully receiving the abundant fruit of thy gifts, may pay due and acceptable praise to thy Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR RAIN (1)

(It is right that ministers should use such petitions as these in a time of drought, as voicing the desires of their people.)

O God, Creator and Governor, who preservest man and beast, look, we beseech thee, on our dry and thirsty land; water it abundantly from thy river which is full of water, and let thy paths drop fatness, that the springing of the earth may be blessed, the fruits thereof be perfect and plentiful, and the year crowned with thy goodness. Spare us, O Lord, in thy mercy, and cause thy people to rejoice because of thy bounty. Shed forth thy Holy Spirit on thy churches, that thy heritage may be confirmed and thy Word be fruitful abundantly, for the glory of thy Holy Name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR RAIN (2)

O God, heavenly Father, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast promised to all them that seek thy kingdom and the righteousness thereof all things necessary for their bodily sustenance;

send us, we beseech thee, in this our necessity, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort and to thy honor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER IN TIME OF RAINY HARVEST

O God, our Sun and Shield, who hast spared us to see another season of ingathering, renew thy mercy unto us, we beseech thee, and stay the falling of the rain from heaven, that the increase which thou hast given may not be destroyed. We confess that we have been worldly and thankless; and have forgotten that thou, who crownest the year with thy goodness, canst turn a fruitful land into barrenness for the wickedness of them that dwell therein. Hear our cry, O Lord, and have mercy upon us, that the fields may be joyful, and all that are therein. Let not the labor of the husbandman be in vain, O our Father: let not the bread of thy children fail. But do thou keep from all harm the fruits of the earth, till they be stored in our garners safely and in abundance. And this we ask for the sake of Him who fed the bodies of men with the bread that perisheth, and their souls with the living bread which came down from heaven. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE PUBLIC PRESS

(How often have you heard pulpit prayers for the public press? Is it not an unfortunate neglect? The press exerts a powerful influence. Many editors are in our congregations. Would they not feel their responsibility for good more if they heard themselves prayed for sometimes in the church service?)

Almighty and gracious God, who hast favored our land by causing knowledge to run to and fro; we beseech thee to strengthen our public press in all things that tend to the enlightenment and betterment of the people. Save our public journals from low standards touching morals and government. Deliver them from sensationalism, untruthfulness, malice, dishonest political measures, personal attacks and the parade of the details of crime and vice. Make them instruments of good, and the defenders of justice, mercy and truth. May they respect morality and honor religion, so that wisdom and

knowledge may become the stability of our times; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## GRATITUDE FOR DELIVERANCE FROM A STORM

O most merciful and mighty God, who at thy pleasure raisest the winds and waves of the sea, or commandest them back to peace; we, thy creatures, spared by thy mercy to praise thee, do give thee unfeigned thanks, for that thou heardest our cry when we were at the brink of death, and didst not suffer us to perish in the devouring waters. And we here offer ourselves, our bodies and our souls, which thou hast redeemed, to be a living sacrifice unto thee of praise and thanksgiving, all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH CHOIR

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast ordained the faculties of man to be instruments of rendering to thee glory and praise; we thank thee that thou hast moved the hearts of these, thy servants, to desire to serve thee in singing the praises of thy Name in the church. Bless them, we beseech thee, in their ministry of song. Endue them with the spirit of worship, that through the presence and power of the Holy Ghost they may edify themselves and all thy congregation in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in their hearts. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen.

## BRIEF PRAYERS WITH THE CHOIR

(It is the custom of many ministers to offer a brief prayer with the choir just before the beginning of the church service —in the chapel or choir room before they enter the church auditorium.)

1. Grant, O Lord, that by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, we may worthily praise thee, because we perfectly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. O thou who art the true light of faithful souls, and perfect brightness of the blessed; grant that our hearts may

render unto thee thanksgiving and always glorify thee with the offering of praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. Fill us, heavenly Father, with the true spirit of praise, that the worship we render unto thee may be acceptable in thy sight, and bring lasting joy and peace to our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

4. Open thou our lips and purify our hearts that we may fitly, reverently and devoutly join in this service and worthily magnify thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

5. Almighty God, who art worshiped by the heavenly host with hymns that are never silent, and with thanksgivings that never cease; fill our mouths with thy praise, that we may magnify thy holy Name; and grant us, with all those that fear thee and keep thy commandments, to be partakers of the inheritance of thy saints in light, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

6. Almighty God, whose eyes are upon all our ways, we beseech thee to bless us as we enter upon the worship of thy church. Help us to remember the sacredness of this place and the solemnity of our duties: Keep us from wandering thoughts, worldly desires and all irreverence. Kindle within us an increasing love of prayer and praise, and may the words we sing impress our hearts and influence our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR A CHURCH CHOIR

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, to sing praises unto thy Name, O thou Most High; to show forth they loving-kindness in the morning and thy faithfulness every night. O Lord, God Almighty, behold and sanctify these, thy servants; grant that they may in all wisdom and understanding sing thy praises. Keep them in the holy fellowship of thy saints, through the mercy and loving-kindness of thine only begotten Son, who liveth and abideth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

## PRAYER WITH OR FOR THE CHOIR

Almighty God, who hast ordained the faculties of man to be the eternal instruments of rendering to thee glory and praise, and hast moved the hearts of these thy servants to

desire to serve thee in singing the praises of thy name in the midst of thy congregation; grant unto them, we beseech thee, thy blessing and grace. O thou whose name is holy, who willest that all things in thy house should be holiness unto thee, sanctify these thy servants, we humbly beseech thee, in this holy work; endue them with the spirit of worship in thy holy fear; that, through the presence and power of the Holy Ghost, they may edify themselves and all thy congregation in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with grace in their hearts. Hear us, for the sake of Jesus Christ; to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR ONE ABOUT TO MAKE A WILL

O Lord, who puttest into our hearts all good desires and hast inclined thy servant to set the house of his earthly affairs in order by making a will, grant that he may do it with wisdom and good conscience according to the precepts of our holy religion and the dictates of right reason, that so being freed from all earthly cares and anxieties he (she) may be the better able before he go hence to set in order the inward house of his soul. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS

Regard, O Lord, thy sick servant with thy favor and compassion. If it be thy holy will speedily restore him (her) to health, that he may praise thee for thy goodness and devote himself to thy service with renewed zeal, and make his life more fruitful in all good works to the glory of thy great Name.

O thou gracious and adorable Saviour, who didst suffer for us, and canst enter into sympathy with us in all our trials and sorrows, regard this thine afflicted servant in this severe illness with the eyes of thy tender compassion. Draw very near to him, that he may have fellowship with thee, and be filled with the assurance that thou lovest him and carest for him. Help him to cast all his care upon thee. Keep him in perfect peace because he trusteth in thee. May the thought of thy cross and passion sustain and comfort him now, and daily may he learn of thee and know the preciousness of thy salvation. Be pleased to give him thy mind and conform

him to thine image, that thou mayest dwell in him and he in thee. These blessings we ask in thy Name, most merciful Saviour, to whom with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE SICK (SEEKING SUBMISSION)

O God, who art a very present help in time of trouble, look with pity upon thy servant, visited by thy hand. Sanctify this sickness to his (her) good, and help him to bear it with submission, that he may be able to say out of a fervent and trustful heart, "Thy will be done." Give him a deep sense of thy mercy and a strong hold of thy promises. Let no cloud obscure thy peace from him and no temptation bring disquietude to his soul. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE DYING

O Jesus, our Saviour and Friend, who didst call the weary and heavy laden to come to thee for rest; let this, thy servant, now depart in peace, according to thy Word, for his eyes have seen thy salvation and he (she) has a good hope because of thy Word. Lead him forth into the green pastures and beside the still waters of thy love: help him to lay his hand in thine without fear, knowing in whom he has believed, and in thine own good time grant him to see the King in his beauty and be found worthy to stand in his presence; through thy merits, O blessed Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer, to whom with the Father and the Holy Ghost be glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

## ANOINTING THE SICK

If the sick person desires to be anointed then shall the minister anoint him upon the forehead or breast only, saying:

As with this visible oil thy body outwardly is anointed, so our heavenly Father, Almighty God, grant of his infinite goodness that thy soul inwardly may be anointed with the Holy Ghost, who is the spirit of all strength, comfort, relief, and gladness. And vouchsafe through his great mercy if it be his blessed will to restore unto thee thy bodily health, and

strength to serve him, and send thee release of all thy pains, troubles and diseases, both in body and mind. And howsoever his goodness, by his divine and unsearchable providence, shall dispose, we humbly beseech the pardon of all thy sins and strength to overcome all thy temptations, and that thou mayest have perfect victory and triumph, through Jesus Christ our Lord: who by his death hath overcome the power of death, and with the Father and the Holy Ghost evermore liveth and reigneth God, world without end. Amen.—Adapted from the First Prayer Book of Edward VI.

## PRAYER BEFORE SURGICAL OPERATION

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord, that this thy servant may have bodily strength so as not to sink under this operation which thou hast appointed him to undergo. Give skill to the physicians, watchfulness to the nurses, and protection against any untoward circumstances. Bring thy servant up from pain and weakness to his wonted health and strength. Especially we ask also for him grace to receive that blessing which thou dost intend by this providence to bestow upon him; through Jesus Christ who suffered for us upon the cross, who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

## PRAYER BEFORE SURGICAL OPERATION

O gracious Lord, by whose word man lives and not by any human aid alone, direct, we pray thee, the hand of him who is about to operate on the body of this, thy servant, and prosper his skill to a merciful and blessed issue. Let not, O Lord, thy servant's confidence in man's aid in any wise lessen his dependence on thee, but make him sensible that every gift is from thee, and that it is thy blessing only that maketh the means used effectual. Hear us, O merciful God, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR DEAF MUTES

(Suitable for petitions in their behalf or at any gathering of them, as at church, school, etc.)

O God, our heavenly Father, whose dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, when he dwelt on the earth went about doing

good, unstopping the ears of the deaf and loosening the tongues of the dumb; look down with thy loving eyes upon all thy deaf and mute children, and give them the special blessing of thy mercy and grace. Let thy fatherly hand ever be over them; let thy Holy Spirit ever be with them; so that they may learn the truth as it is in Jesus, and believe in and rest upon him as the Saviour of their souls, and find in him that joy and peace which the Holy Ghost alone can bestow. Be with them, we beseech thee, in all the trials and duties and dangers of this life, and may they so live in thy fear and love here, that in the world to come they may ever, with open ears and loving tongues, show forth thy praise in thy heavenly kingdom. Hear us, O Lord God, through thy Son, Jesus Christ, to whom, with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR COURTS OF JUSTICE

(Do we not as ministers omit or very seldom pray for courts of justice? We have judges and lawyers in many congregations. Would they not feel a deeper responsibility if they heard themselves prayed for occasionally?)

O Lord God, the supreme Governor of all the earth, look down, we pray thee, upon all who bear rule among thy people, and more especially upon those who are appointed to execute justice. Give them wisdom and grace, we beseech thee, rightly and impartially to discharge this their solemn duty, that so the things which are amiss may be reformed, vice abandoned, truth supported, innocence relieved, strife and contention abated, and thy glory maintained. Have compassion upon all who are in prison or in bonds, and convert all who are in sin or error; through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE BLIND

O God, who hast sent thy Son to be the true light of the world, grant that they who cannot see the things of the world may be more fully enlightened and comforted by his inward guidance. Cheer them in their blindness with thy heavenly manifestations. Show thyself to such as know thee not, and grant that they may thankfully accept the loss of earthly sight,

as the means ordained of thee for bringing their hearts to the contemplation of their own misery and of thy holiness. Quicken those who know thee by faith to a deeper intuition of thy purity, that, beholding thee with increasing love, they may become the more conformed to thine image, until they behold thee as thou art, and awake to the full revelation of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER AGAINST DIVORCE

Almighty and every living God, who hast instituted marriage for the betterment of society; we beseech thee to arrest the tendency in our land to regard lightly and irreverently the marriage vow. Put it into the hearts of senators, judges, and all others who have the construction or administration of the laws of our States, to remove those features that make marital relations the causes of immorality. Bring, we beseech thee, the minds of the people to a higher sense of the sanctity of marriage, and of the enduring covenant made in thy Name. Give the spirit of charity, forbearance and forgiveness to all married persons, that through the various trials of life they may be faithful to each other until parted by death; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR ONE WHO HAS ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

Almighty God, in whose hands are the issues of life and death, and of whose only grace it cometh to think or to do anything that is good; make this, thy servant, truly sensible of thy mercy that thou didst not suffer his evil intentions against himself to take effect. Give him (her) a deep consciousness of the sacredness of life, and of the sin of doing harm to the body or soul. If it be thy gracious will, let him live to bring forth fruits meet for repentance and to glorify thee in an holy and Christian life here, so that he may attain to thine everlasting kingdom hereafter; through the merits of Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR FALLEN WOMEN

O Almighty God, we, thy unworthy servants, beseech thee to bless the work of thy church among those who have fallen

through the temptations of fleshly sin. Stir up, O Lord, the hearts of devout men and women to minister to thy lost and helpless ones; support and comfort them in all their toil and anxiety; and vouchsafe them the increase of faith and love, and bring them to be of one mind and heart in the communion of thy saints, that they may work together for thee here, and finally be received into the kingdom of peace; through the merits and mediation of thy dear Son, our only Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PRAYER AT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

O Jesus, we, thy ministers, bow before thee to confess the common sins of our calling. Thou knowest all things; thou knowest that we love thee and that our hearts' desire is to serve thee in faithfulness; and yet, like Peter, we have so often failed thee in the hour of thy need. If ever we have loved our own leadership and power when we sought to lead our people to thee, we pray thee to forgive. If we have been engrossed in narrow duties and little questions, when the vast needs of humanity called aloud for prophetic vision and apostolic sympathy, we pray thee to forgive. If in our loyalty to the Church of the past we have distrusted thy living voice and have suffered thee to pass from our door unheard, we pray thee to forgive. If ever we have been more concerned for the strong and the rich than for the shepherdless throngs of the people for whom thy soul grieved, we pray thee to forgive.

O Master, amidst our failures we cast ourselves upon thee in humility and contrition. We need new light and a new message. We need the ancient spirit of prophecy and the leaping fire and joy of a new conviction and thou alone canst give it. Inspire the ministry of thy Church with dauntless courage to face the vast needs of the future. Free us from all entanglements that have hushed our voice and bound our action. Grant us grace to look upon the veiled sins of the rich and the coarse vices of the poor through thine eyes. Give us thine inflexible sternness against sin, and thine inexhaustible compassion for the frailty and tragedy of those who do the sin. Make us faithful shepherds of thy flock, true seers of God, and true followers of Jesus. —REV. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH.

# Part III: DEDICATORY FORMS, SERVICES AND PRAYERS

BEING OFFICES FOR MANY BENEDICTORY OCCASIONS

# Part III: DEDICATORY FORMS, SERVICES AND PRAYERS

## A GROUND-BREAKING SERVICE

The Gloria Patri: By Congregation.

Responsive Scripture Lesson.

Pastor: The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

People: For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork.

People: Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge.

Pastor: And God said: Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so.

People: And God called the dry land earth, and the gathering together of the waters called he seas; and God saw that it was good.

Prayer.

Dedicatory. Responsive.

Pastor: Holy, Blessed and Glorious Trinity; Three persons and one God:

People: To thee we dedicate this ground.

Pastor: Father of Our Lord, Jesus Christ; Our Father which art in heaven:

People: To thee we dedicate this ground.

Pastor: Son of God, the Only Begotten of the Father, head of the body, which is the Church; head of all things to the Church; Prophet, Priest and King of thy people:

People: To thee we dedicate this ground.

Pastor: God, the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son; given to be our abiding Teacher, Sanctifier and Comforter; Lord and giver of Life:

People: To thee we dedicate this ground.

The Apostles' Creed.

Hymn, "All People That on Earth Do Dwell." Tune: "Old Hundred."

Address.

Offering.

Hymn, "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." Tune: "Azmon," C. M.

Ground Breaking: By an honored person chosen for this service.

Hymn, "We Give Thee But Thine Own." Tune: "St. Thomas," S. M.

Announcements.

Doxology.

Benediction.

## CORNER-STONE LAYING

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord:
People: Who hath made heaven and earth.
Minister: The Stone, which the builders rejected,
People: Hath become the head of the corner.
Minister: This is the Lord's doing;
People: And it is marvelous in our eyes.
Minister: Blessed be the name of the Lord:
People: From henceforth even for ever. Amen.

Hymn.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, true Corner-Stone, immutable Foundation, establish thou this stone which we plant in thy name. And do thou, who art the beginning and the end, in whom all things were created, vouchsafe thy presence, that this our work, undertaken for thy service, may be carried on and perfected to the praise and glory of thy holy name, who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

(Here shall follow the laying of the stone. After the usual articles, such as records and coins, have been deposited in the cavity prepared for them, the minister, or other person appointed for the purpose, assisted by the builder, shall lay the stone in its place. Then the minister, placing his hand on it, shall say:)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the

Holy Ghost, we lay this corner-stone of an edifice to be here erected under the name of.....Church, and devoted to the worship of Almighty God.

Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

In this place may the faith flourish, the fear of God, the love of the brethren. Here may the voice of prayer continually be heard, the voice of rejoicing and salvation, the voice of praise and invocation of thy most glorious and honorable name, even the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, henceforth and for ever. Amen.

Prayer:

Let thy Holy Spirit, O Lord our God, descend continually and rest upon this place; that our gifts and all our service may be sanctified, and our hearts, and the hearts of all who labor upon this building, may be cleansed and purified; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, who art present in all places of thy dominion to accept and further the services of all thy creatures, hear us, we most humbly beseech thee. Accept the humble service of all who contribute from their substance unto this building, and let thy blessing rest upon them, and upon those who labor in erecting it; and grant that the progress of this work may be secured against every accident and may be carried forward without hindrance unto perfection; through Jesus Christ thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Hymn.

Address.

Benediction:

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, and blessed be his glorious name for ever and ever.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

## SERVICE OF CORNER-STONE LAYING

Opening Sentences. "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that built it."

Hymn:

An earthly temple here we raise,
Lord God, our Saviour, to thy praise.
Oh! make thy gracious presence known,
While now we lay its corner-stone.

And, when this temple, "made with hands"
Upon its firm foundation stands,
Oh! may we all, with loving heart,
In nobler building bear a part

Where every polished stone shall be,
A human soul won back to thee;
All resting upon Christ alone,
The chief and precious Corner-Stone.

So, when our toil is o'er at last,
All labor in both temples passed,
Oh! may it then by works be shown,
That faith has laid this corner-stone.

Responsive Scripture Reading.

Minister: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

People: Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Minister: We have thought of thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.

People: According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness.

Minister: Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments.

People: Walk about Zion, and go round about her; tell the towers thereof.

Minister: Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following.

People: For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death.

Minister: His foundation is in the holy mountains.

People: The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

Minister: Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

People: And of Zion it shall be said, this and that man was born in her; and the Highest himself shall establish her.

Minister: The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there.

People: As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there; all my springs are in thee.

Minister: The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner; this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

People: Therefore, thus saith the Lord, behold I lay in Zion, for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste.

Minister: To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious.

People: Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Minister: Behold, I will lay thy stone with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.

People: And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones.

Minister: And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children.

People: That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace.

Minister: He shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Laying of Stone.

After such documents and other articles as are to be preserved have been deposited in the cavity prepared for them, the Minister, or other person appointed for the purpose, assisted by the builder, shall lay the stone in its place. Then the minister, placing his hand on it, shall say:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we lay this corner stone of a house to be erected here under the name of ..... Church, and devoted to worship of Almighty God.

Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid; which is Jesus Christ.

Prayer:

Lord God, who art the Beginning and the End, by whom all things were created; grant us the fullness of thy mercy, and establish thou this stone which we plant in thy name.

Accept, we beseech thee, the humble service of all who contribute of their substance unto this building; let thy blessing rest upon them, and also upon those who labor in erecting it, to shield them from all accidents and dangers; and grant unto them, and all of us here present, thy heavenly grace, that our gifts and all our service may be sanctified, and we may become in soul and body living temples of the Holy Ghost. All of which we ask through the abundant merits of our Lord and Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end Amen. Close with Lord's prayer repeated in concert.

Hymn.

Benediction.

## PRAYER AT CORNER-STONE LAYING

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the Great King.

According to thy Name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness. Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments. Walk about Zion, go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks; consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death.

The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the Highest Himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. As well the singers as the players of instruments shall be there. All our springs are in thee.

The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become

the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. Therefore, thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. To whom coming as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious; ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Behold, I lay thy stones with fair colors, and thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders with pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. That our sons may be as plants grown up to their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones polished after the similitude of a palace.

He shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

Therefore, now, to the end that these prospects and promises may be fulfilled to the people of this congregation and to their descendants, God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Our Father who are in Heaven,

*In thy Name we lay this corner stone.*

Son of God, the only begotten of the Father, Head of the Body, which is the Church; Head over all things to the Church, Prophet, Priest and King of thy people, who on the cross didst suffer for our sins, the just for the unjust, who ever liveth to make intercession for us,

*In thy Name we lay this corner stone.*

God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, given to be our abiding Teacher, Sanctifier and Comforter; Lord and giver of life,

*In thy Name we lay this corner stone.*

Holy, Blessed and Glorious Trinity, Three Persons in One God, that the finished building may be for the worship of thy Name, for the proclamation and the study of thy Word and the better fitting of men's souls for thine everlasting Kingdom,

*In thy Name we lay this corner stone.*

Grant thy blessing upon us all here, and so strengthen the hands of thy servants that the building may be finished with

joy and in beautiful completeness; and may every one of us be wholly dedicated to thy service, and our bodies be fit temples for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost.

We ask and offer all in the name of thy Son, our Saviour, who hath taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A CHURCH (1)

Responsive Scripture reading.
Minister: Ps. 27:4.
Congregation: Ps. 48:12-14.
Minister: Ps. 84:1-4.
Congregation: Ps. 84:10-12.
Minister: Ps. 122:1-2.
Congregation: Ps. 122:6-9.
All: 1 Kings 9:1-9.
Singing: "Te Deum." Choir and Congregation.
Minister reads 1 Kings 8:22-30.
Congregation reads Psalm 24.
Prayer by minister, concluding with Lord's Prayer, repeated by congregation.
Minister reads 2 Chron. 7:12, 15, 16.

### DEDICATION

Pastor: To the glory of God, our Father, by whose favor we have built this house;
To the honor of Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Lord and Saviour;
To the praise of the Holy Spirit, source of life and light;
For worship in prayer and song;
For ministry of the word;
For celebration of the holy sacraments;
Congregation: *We dedicate this house.*
Pastor: For comfort to those who mourn,
For strength to those who are tempted.
For help in right living;

Congregation: *We dedicate this house.*
Pastor: For the sanctification of the family,
For the guidance of childhood,
For the salvation of men;
Congregation: *We dedicate this house.*
Pastor: For the fostering of patriotism,
For the training of conscience,
For aggression against evil;
Congregation: *We dedicate this house.*
Pastor: For the help of the needy,
For the promotion of brotherhood,
For bringing in the kingdom of God;
Congregation: *We dedicate this house.*

Pastor: As a tribute of gratitude and love, a free will offering of thanksgiving and praise, from those who have tasted the cup of thy salvation, and experienced the riches of thy grace;

Congregation: *We, the people of this church and congregation, now consecrating ourselves anew, dedicate this entire building in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Choir and Congregation: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Minister:
Arise, O Jehovah, into thy resting-place;
Thou, and the ark of thy strength.
Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness;
And let thy saints shout for joy.

Prayer of Dedication:

Almighty and everlasting God, thou dwellest not in temples made with hands, neither art thou worshiped with men's hands, as though thou needest anything, seeing that thou givest to all life and all things. Yet do thou, O Lord, who delightest thyself in the praises of the sanctuary, accept the offering of this house which thy people have builded to the glory of thy holy name. We consecrate it to thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to be henceforth the house of God, and a gate of heaven; we set it apart from all common and worldly uses, for a temple and a sanctuary, where thy holy gospel shall be preached; where the prayers of the church shall be made unto thee without ceasing; where thy praises shall be devoutly sung; where the ordinances of

the Word shall be duly administered; to which thy people shall throng with cheerful steps.

When thy holy Word is preached in this place may it be spoken in the demonstration of the Spirit and with power; speak thou to the people, O Lord, through the lips of thine ambassadors. Here when thy people come to offer their gifts upon thine altar, let them consider Him, who, though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich.

Let the glory of the Lord fill this house, and the Spirit of God descend and dwell in his church. Amen.

Hymn: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."

Benediction.

### ADDITIONAL PRAYER IF DESIRED

Almighty God, whose blessing has followed this church through all her history, grant that thy benediction may attend and hallow the services of these days of dedication. Awaken within us the desire to dedicate ourselves in loving devotion to thee and to thy church.

Bless those who have given of their time and substance to making the House of God beautiful, and may a new sense of the beauty of the Lord come upon all our people to the end that his praise shall be on every tongue, and his love in every heart. In the Name of Christ our Lord. Amen.—HUGH T. KERR, D.D.

## DEDICATION OF A CHURCH (2)

### WITH CONSECRATION OF PULPIT, FONT AND COMMUNION SERVICE

The Order:

The church being completed, and furnished with a pulpit, font and communion table, the communion vessels being placed on the communion table, and the congregation being assembled, the public worship of God is begun by a Salutation and the singing of a suitable hymn.

Salutation:

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Hymn.

Responsive Scripture Reading:

Minister: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

People: Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Minister: God is known in her palaces for a refuge.

People: As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts in the city of our God; God will establish it for ever.

Minister: We have thought of thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.

People: According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth; they right hand is full of righteousness.

Minister: Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments.

People: Walk about Zion, and go round about her; tell the towers thereof.

Minister: Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following.

People: For this God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death.

The Prayer of Dedication:

(The people are asked to join audibly and heartily in the responses.)

O Eternal God, mighty in power, and of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands, and who hast been graciously pleased to promise thine especial presence in whatever place even two or three of thy faithful servants shall assemble in thy name to offer up their praises and supplications unto thee; vouchsafe, O Lord, to be present with us who are here gathered together to consecrate this house, which we have builded, to the honor of thy great name, separating it from henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary and common uses and consecrating it to thy service.

Accept now this house. We give it to thee. It is ours no longer. It is thine henceforth. We cannot hallow it; do thou hallow it. May the glory of the latter house be greater than the glory of the former!

God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Father, who art in heaven:

People: *To Thee we Consecrate it.*

Son of God, the only begotten of the Father, Prophet, Priest and King of thy people, Redeemer of the world, who on the cross didst suffer for our sins, the just for the unjust, and who ever livest to make intercession for us:

People: *To Thee we Consecrate it.*

God, the Holy Spirit, given to be our abiding teacher, sanctifier and comforter; Lord and giver of life:

People: *To Thee we Consecrate it.*

THE PULPIT:

Accept, O Lord, the offering of this pulpit, and grant that from it the good tidings of salvation may ever be faithfully preached, the Holy Scriptures ever rightfully interpreted and the common worship of thy people ever conducted in spirit and in truth:

People: *Accept it, O Lord.*

THE BAPTISMAL FONT:

Accept, O Lord, the offering of this Font of Baptism, and grant that all who here receive the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit may receive such a measure of thy Holy Spirit that they shall ever remain in the number of thy faithful children, and enter into the joy of their Lord:

People: *Accept it, O Lord.*

THE COMMUNION VESSELS:

Accept, we beseech thee, the offering of these Communion Vessels, and grant that whosoever shall receive in this place the blessed sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, may come to that holy ordinance with faith, charity and true repentance; and being filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, may obtain remission of their sins and all other benefits of his passion:

People: *Accept them, O Lord.*

OTHER OFFERINGS:

Accept, O Lord, the other offerings, services and gifts of thy people for the sacred services and uses of thy church in this place, and bless them to their spiritual purposes, for the increase of thine honor and the beauty of the Holy Place wherein thine honor dwelleth:

People: *Accept them, O Lord.*

Make this a holy place, O Lord, by manifesting thyself here to them that seek thee, by opening blind eyes that they

may see thy glory and thy beauty in Jesus Christ, our Lord, by unstopping deaf ears that they may hear thy voice, and, hearing, may obey.

Make this a holy place, O Lord, by here comforting the sorrowing, strengthening the tempted, encouraging the tried, giving hope to the hopeless, revealing the sunshine of thy countenance to darkened souls, and thy rest to the weary and heavy-laden.

Here, then, glorify thyself. Here may the name of Jesus always be honored and exalted. Here may the communion of the Holy Spirit ever be realized. So work here through us, O Lord, as to hasten the coming of thy glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

"Our Father, which art in Heaven," etc. Amen.

*Dedication Sermon.*

## DEDICATION OF A CHURCH (3)

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Isa. 56:7.

Hymn.

Scripture. Pastor. Ps. 24.

Prayer.

### THE MATERIAL TEMPLE

Scripture.

Leader: One thing have I asked of Jehovah, that will I seek after:

That I may dwell in the house of Jehovah all the days of my life.

To behold the beauty of Jehovah.

And to inquire in his temple. Ps. 27:4.

People: Surely goodness and loving-kindness shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I shall dwell in the house of Jehovah forever. Ps. 23:6.

Leader: Jehovah, I love the habitation of thy house,

And the place where thy glory dwelleth. Ps. 26:8.

People: And now shall my head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me;

And I will offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy;

I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto Jehovah. Ps. 27:6.

Leader: How amiable are thy tabernacles.

O Jehovah of hosts!
My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of Jehovah;
My heart and my flesh cry out unto the living God. Ps. 84: 1, 2.
People: Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house,
And the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
Even thine altars, O Jehovah of hosts,
My King, and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:
They will be still praising thee. Ps. 84: 3, 4.
Leader: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.
I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God,
Than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. Ps. 84: 10.
People: For Jehovah God is a sun and a shield;
Jehovah will give grace and glory;
No good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly. Ps. 84: 11.
Leader: Honor and majesty are before him:
Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe unto Jehovah, ye kindreds of the peoples,
Ascribe unto Jehovah glory and strength.
Ascribe unto Jehovah the glory due unto his name;
Bring an offering, and come into his courts. Ps. 96: 6-8.
People: What shall I render unto Jehovah
For all his benefits toward me?
I will take the cup of salvation,
And call upon the name of Jehovah.
I will pay my vows unto Jehovah,
Yea, in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of Jehovah's house,
In the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Ps. 116: 12, 13, 18, 19.
Scripture. (Single Voice).
I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go unto the house of Jehovah.
Our feet are standing
Within thy gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem, that art builded
As a city that is compact together;
Whither the tribes go up, even the tribes of Jehovah.
For an ordinance for Israel,
To give thanks unto the name of Jehovah.

For there are set thrones for judgment,
The thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
They shall prosper that love thee,
Peace be within thy walls,
And prosperity within thy palaces. Ps. 122:1-4, 6, 7.

### THE BIBLICAL TEMPLES

Solomon's temple was both costly and magnificent. It was repeatedly plundered and desecrated during the troubled centuries of its history, was repaired and purified, but was finally destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, after standing about four hundred years.

The second temple was built under the direction of Zerubbabel after the return from exile and was inferior to the first in every way except size.

The temple of the New Testament, Herod's temple, with its spacious courts, stairways and colonnades, was both large and magnificent. This was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. A Mohammedan mosque now stands upon the site.

The Israelites had but one temple or shrine in their land. The Christian church reproduces, not the temple but the synagogue, a place for prayer, praise and instruction in the sacred Scriptures.

### THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE

Leader: The temple of God is builded not of stones but of Christian lives.

People: Know ye not that ye are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man destroyeth the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, and such are ye. 1 Cor. 3:16, 17.

Leader: According to the grace of God which was given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder I laid a foundation; and another buildeth thereon. But let each man take heed how he buildeth thereon. For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 3: 10, 11.

People: But if any man buildeth on the foundation gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, stubble; each man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it is

revealed in fire: and the fire itself shall prove each man's work of what sort it is. 1 Cor. 3: 12, 13.

Leader: If any man's work shall abide which he built thereon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as through fire. 1 Cor. 3: 14, 15.

People: Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body. 1 Cor. 6: 19, 20.

Leader: For we are a temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 2 Cor. 6: 16.

People: So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God in the Spirit. Eph. 2: 19-22.

### THE COVENANT

All—

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord,

That I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers

In the day that I took them by the hand to lead them forth out of the land of Egypt.

For they continued not in my covenant,

And I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel

After those days, saith the Lord;

I will put my laws into their mind,

And on their heart also will I write them:

And I will be to them a God,

And they shall be to me a people:

And they shall not teach every man his fellow-citizen,

And every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord:

For all shall know me,
From the least to the greatest of them,
For I will be merciful to their iniquities,
And their sins will I remember no more. Heb. 8:8-12.

Address: (Why we call churches sacred—what that includes and excludes—value of symbols in religious life—what this church will stand for in this community—present-day altars and offerings.)

Pastor: Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple.

O Jehovah, the God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath; who keepest covenant and loving-kindness with thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts;

But will God in very deed dwell on the earth? behold heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee: how much less this house that I have builded! Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Jehovah my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee this day; that thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place whereof thou hast said, My name shall be there: to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall pray toward this place: then hear thou from heaven, even from thy dwelling-place, their prayer and their supplications and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people who have sinned against thee.

Now, O my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. Now therefore arise, O Jehovah God, into thy resting-place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O Jehovah God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. 1 Kings 8:23, 27-30; 2 Chron. 6:39-41.

Dedication according to the denominational ritual.

## DEDICATION OF A CHURCH (4)

Salutation: Dearly beloved in the Lord: God our Heavenly Father, having in his grace, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord, brought to its consummation our work of preparing for the honor of his holy name, a house within whose walls his Gospel is to be truly preached, his sacraments are to be faithfully administered, and prayer and praise are to be offered unto him, we are now gathered in his presence for the purpose

of devoting this house, by a solemn act of worship, to its proper and sacred use. Let us therefore seek his blessing on this service.

Act of Dedication: Pastor and People. The people uniting audibly in the responses.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, who art, and wast, and art to come, the whole earth is full of thy glory! Thine, O Lord, are the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in the earth is thine. Now, therefore, we thank thee, O God, and praise thy glorious name.

But who are we, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own do we give thee. Our Lord God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for Thine Holy Name, cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.

Now behold, O Lord our God, and look unto this place where we are gathered in thy name, and have respect to the prayer of thy servants and to their supplications, to hearken unto their cry and the prayer that thy servants pray before thee this day, to take this house which we have builded, for thine own. May the glory of thy house be ever greater!

God the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Our Father, who art in Heaven,

*To Thee we dedicate this house.*

Son of God, the only begotten of the Father, Head of the Body, which is the Church; Head over all things to the Church; Prophet, Priest, and King of thy people, who on the cross didst suffer for our sins, the just for the unjust, who ever livest to make intercession for us,

*To Thee we dedicate this house.*

God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, given to be our abiding Teacher, Sanctifier, and Comforter; Lord and Giver of Life,

*To thee we dedicate this house.*

Holy, Blessed, and Glorious Trinity, Three Persons in One God, for the worship of thy Name, the study of thy Word, and the better fitting of men's souls for thine everlasting Kingdom,

*To Thee we dedicate this house.*

Arise, O Lord, into thy rest. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let thy people shout for joy. Put

thy Name in this place. Sanctify it by thy presence and thy constant abiding. Give power to thy Gospel taught and preached in it. Let thine eyes be opened towards it; and hearken unto the supplications of thy people when they pray in this place, and hear them in Heaven, thy dwelling place, and when thou hearest, forgive. And from this outer court of thy Holy Sanctuary bring thy people and thy children into the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not man; the heavenly temple, of which the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the light.

Prayer of Consecration:

O Almighty and everlasting God, thou dwellest not in temples made with hands, neither art thou worshiped with men's hands, as though thou needest anything, seeing that thou givest to all life and breath and all things; when we bring thee our best, we serve thee only with what is thine own; and when we have done all, we are but unprofitable servants. Yet do thou, O Lord, who delightest thyself in the praises of the Sanctuary, accept the offering of this house which thy people have builded to the glory of thy Holy Name. We consecrate it to thee, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, to be henceforth the House of God, and a gate of heaven; we set it apart from all common and worldly uses, for a temple and sanctuary, where thy Holy Gospel shall be preached; where the prayers of the Church shall be made unto thee without ceasing; where thy high praises shall be devoutly sung; where thy ordinances of thy Word shall be duly administered; to which thy people shall throng with cheerful steps. How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts! I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the House of the Lord.

When thy Holy Word is preached in this place may it be spoken in the demonstration of the Spirit and with power; speak thou comfortably to thy people, O Lord, through the lips of thine ambassadors, and let thy Word be as the fire and as the hammer to hardened hearts. When thy Holy Sacraments are here administered, may those spiritual graces which the outward signs do represent and signify, flow into the hearts of thy servants; so that receiving the seal of Baptism, they shall indeed feed by faith on the Body and Blood of Christ. Here let God be worshiped in spirit and in truth, and let not our Father's house be made a place of merchandise. Here when thy people come to offer their gifts upon

thine altar, let them consider him, who though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. Let the glory of the Lord fill this house, and the Spirit of God descend and dwell in his Church.

We ask and offer all in the Name of thy Son our Saviour, who hath taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory, for ever. Amen.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF CHURCH

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which is, and was, and is to come: the whole earth is full of thy glory! Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Now, therefore, we thank thee, O God, and praise thy glorious Name.

But who are we, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own do we give thee. O Lord our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thy holy Name, cometh of thy hand and is all thine own.

Now behold, O Lord our God, and look unto this place where we are gathered in thy Name; and have respect to the prayer of thy servants and to their supplication, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer that thy servants pray before thee this day, to take for thine own this house which we would give thee!

O Lord God, who art from everlasting to everlasting, and whose kingdom is without end, Maker of heaven and earth and sea, and all that in them is; King of kings and Lord of lords, Lawgiver, Defender, and Judge alone: to thee we dedicate it.

Holy and blessed Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; three Persons in one God: to thee we dedicate it.

Father of all who believe in Jesus, and God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, here meet thou with thy children, teach them, strengthen them, and bless them: to thee we dedicate it.

Son of God, the Only begotten of the Father, Head over all things, the Lord of Righteousness, Saviour, Shepherd, High Priest, and Advocate, here draw all men unto thee; here sprinkle thy ransomed ones with thine atoning blood; here make thy flock to lie down in green pastures beside the living waters: here be thou a shadow from the heat and a refuge from the tempest; and, while thy people worship in the outer sanctuary, pray for them within the Holiest of all: to thee we dedicate it.

Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, who didst come down upon our Lord Jesus beside Jordan, and upon the Church at the Pentecost, who takest up thine abode in all believers, Comforter, Inspirer, Sanctifier, here display thy power, succeed thy truth, give hope to the penitent and gladness to the mourner. Subdue thy foes, hallow thy Church, and accomplish all the glory of redemption: to thee we dedicate it.

Arise O Lord, into thy rest, thou and the ark of thy strength!

But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which we have builded? Yet dwellest thou also with him that is of a contrite and humble spirit. So be thine eyes opened toward this house night and day; and toward the place of which thou hast said, My Name shall be there; and hearken thou unto the supplication of thy servants and of thy people Israel when they shall pray toward this place; and hear thou in heaven, thy dwelling-place; and when thou hearest, forgive. Dwell thou with us in thy tabernacle, while we are yet in the wilderness; then take us up to thy house in heaven that we may dwell with thee for ever.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock: Thou that dwellest between the cherubim, shine forth.

How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven! Amen.

## PRAYER AT DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

Grant, we beseech thee, blessed Lord, that whosoever shall draw near unto thee in this place, to confess their sins unto thee, to give thee thanks for the benefits which they have received at thy hands, to set forth thy most worthy praise,

and to ask such things as are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul, may do it with such steadfastness of faith, and with such seriousness, affection, and devotion of mind, that thou mayest accept their bounden duty and service, and vouchsafe to them whatsoever in thy infinite wisdom thou shalt see to be most expedient for them: all which we beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour.

O thou the high and lofty One, who inhabitest eternity, who art exalted far above all heavens, and yet hast declared that thou dwellest with the contrite and humble spirits on earth: grant, we beseech thee, that this house which we have now presumed to dedicate to thee may also be hallowed, by the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost, and so for ever continue, through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live and govern all things, world without end. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR WORKERS ON A CHURCH BUILDING

Grant, we beseech thee, most gracious Lord, that they who are engaged in building the house of thy sanctuary may have thy Name forever hallowed in their hearts, and may themselves be built up as lively stones in thy spiritual temple; through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR CHURCH DECORATORS

O God, who didst call by name Bazaleel and Aholiab, and didst inspire them with wisdom, that they might make thy sanctuary to be glorious and acceptable in thy sight; give thy grace to all who are engaged in decorating thy house, that they, looking for thine inspiration to guide their work and for thy blessing to hallow it, may themselves be perfected in the glory of thy sanctifying Spirit and dwell forevermore in thy heavenly courts; through the merits and mediations of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR WORKMEN ENGAGED IN CHURCH BUILDING

O God, who didst bless Solomon in the building of the temple, look graciously upon all endeavors to restore the outer fabrics of thy church, and to create new places for thine

honor and worship. Grant that they who are engaged in forwarding these necessary works may themselves be built up as lively stones in thy heavenly temple, and shine with glory in the mystical body of thy dear Son; through his merits, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

## RE-DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

(The church had been partly burned with fire and was re-built and refurnished.)

### THE PRAYER OF RE-DEDICATION

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, who art, and wast, and art to come, the whole earth is full of thy glory! Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Now, therefore, we thank thee, O God, and praise thy glorious Name.

But who are we, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own do we give thee. O Lord our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine Holy Name, cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.

Now, behold, O Lord our God, and look unto this place where we are gathered in thy Name; and have respect to the prayer of thy servants and to their supplication, to hearken unto their cry and the prayer that thy servants pray before thee this day, to take this house, which their fathers builded, and which they have re-builded, for thine own. May the glory of the latter house be even greater than the glory of the former!

God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Our Father, who art in heaven,

*To Thee We Re-dedicate It.*

Son of God, the only begotten of the Father, Head of the Body, which is the Church; Head over all things to the Church; Prophet, Priest, and King of thy people, who on the cross didst suffer for our sins, the just for the unjust, who ever livest to make intercession for us,

*To Thee We Re-dedicate It.*

God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, given to be our abiding Teacher, Sanctifier, and Comforter; Lord and Giver of Life,

*To Thee We Re-dedicate It.*

Holy, Blessed, and Glorious Trinity, Three Persons in One God, for the worship of thy Name, the study of thy Word, and the better fitting of men's souls for thine everlasting Kingdom,

*To Thee We Re-dedicate It.*

Arise, O Lord, into thy rest. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let thy people shout for joy. Put thy Name in this place. Sanctify it by thy presence and thy constant abiding. Give power to thy gospel taught and preached in it. Let thine eyes be opened towards it; and hearken unto the supplications of thy people when they pray in this place, and hear them in Heaven, thy dwelling place, and when thou hearest, forgive. And from this outer court of thy Holy Sanctuary bring thy people and thy children into the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not man; the heavenly temple, of which the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the light.

We ask and offer all in the Name of thy Son our Saviour who hath taught us to pray: "Our Father," etc.

## DEDICATION OF A CHURCH SPIRE

Gloria Patri: "Glory be to the Father," etc.

Responsive Scripture Lesson: "The earth is the Lord's, etc. Ps. 24.

Hymn: "All people that on earth do dwell."

Apostles' Creed: "I believe in God the Father Almighty," etc.

Act of Dedication: Dearly beloved in the Lord: God our heavenly Father, having in his grace, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, brought to its consummation our work of preparing for the honor of his Holy Name, this Church Spire (Tower, or Steeple), we are now gathered in his presence for the purpose of devoting the same by a solemn act of worship to its proper and sacred use. Let us therefore seek his blessing on this service.

Let Us Pray: O Lord God, almighty and most merciful, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less temples built with hands, but who also dwellest with men, and

delightest thyself in the assemblage of thy people; cleanse our hearts, we beseech thee, from all evil thought and desire, and vouchsafe thy divine Presence and blessing, that both those things may please thee which we do at this present, and also that we may at length obtain thy favor with life everlasting in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Devotement:

Pastor: Holy, Blessed, and Glorious Trinity: three Persons and one God:

People: *To Thee we dedicate this spire.*

Pastor: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Our Father which art in heaven:

People: *To Thee we dedicate this spire.*

Pastor: Son of God, the Only Begotten of the Father, Head of the Body, which is the Church: Head over all things to the Church; Prophet, Priest and King of thy people:

People: *To Thee we dedicate this spire.*

Pastor: God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son: given to be our abiding Teacher, Sanctifier, and Comforter; Lord and Giver of Life:

People: *To Thee we dedicate this spire.*

Address:

A Church Spire is the most spiritual thing man has contrived. It is, therefore, the most poetical; for things spiritual are the highest form of poetry. Greek temples had no spires. Spires came with Christ. The irresistible poetry of Him ran along the veins of men like sunlight, far from the catacombs; unconsciously they flung their architecture into aspiration. A spireless church is an eyeless structure, having lost the essential spirit of what it is. Those churches which are built like a library building, or a court of justice, or an opera house have lost the beat of the heart of ecclesiastical architecture. Men should not be tolerated as church architects who do not have in their own hearts the secret of God and the distillation through their plans of the mood of the Gospel. This is a cardinal sin of contemporaneous church architecture. It has been secularized. In the name of something new they have imposed upon the untutored in those fine spiritual atmospheres the grim spirit of utility that leads to the forgetting of God.

Nothing in beautiful England is so engaging and captivating as the sight of the church tower and spire before you

behold aught else in the approaching city. All else a city possesses shrivels in loveliness as compared with the severe and holy control a cathedral takes, as by divine right, of the city where it builds its walls against the sky.

Consider these cathedrals of England, how they make their climb heavenward. . . . What thrills the heart of a traveler nearing Canterbury is the proud uplift of its towers springing, not only far above the city roofs, but far above its own roof, and the four corners of the towers capped with spires. . . . It is well to catch the heaven-breath of the church, little or large. Life clusters about its base and eternal life clusters about its spire. Those little churches of England, which nestle in the landscape like a babe on the breast, all connote worship and praise and help and rest, and the nearness of God to man and the nearness and access of man to God. There is no other thought so high. . . . Lake Windermere is not so compelling to one's memory as the little Wordsworth church, a wee bit housie where nature-poet Wordsworth bowed his head in prayer. Not a vast cathedral, with the shadow of its tower thrown on the haunting river, impresses me more nor gives more the sense of the great God. A least church with its tiny tower or spire has the mystery of human trust and longing, and God to be had for the asking. . . . I know a village tree-embowered. It has a railroad station, a grocery store, a blacksmith shop, a post office, and a grange hall. I think a half dozen would make an abundant count of the houses. And a church is there, and across the street the manse. You may never see the church, as the train tarries in the station or passes puffingly through the town. But a spire tops the town. I look forward to seeing it as I gaze at a flight of doves white-breasted, white-winged, swift of flight against the fury of a gale. Such a modest spire among the trees, yet so haunting, so ministrant, so silent and yet singingly vocal in its evangel. "Here we pray, we mortal folk, trust in God, love him, and listen to and heed the preacher's words, and repent us of our sins, and trust in God for our salvation, and make our slow, sure way to the Better Land," so says the spire. . . . This little town of the White Spire I shall not forget while I live. To my own soul I have christened it "The Village of the Spire." Stars, shed starlight softly, lest ye disturb its holy meditation on the things of God.

. . . I watch the spires, that is the sum of it. I set them

down among my beatitudes. On some dreamy evening when my slow heart pulse ticks to the closing minutes of my life's little day upon the ground I feel assured that I shall see with dimming eyes, a church spire climbing out of my evening dusk against the background of the dull night sky and pointing like a smile of God to that fair city where I shall have my certain welcome from Him whose name the church spire half whispered and half sung to me in the voice of love through all my yearning years and shall chime to me, a pilgrim welcome home.—BISHOP W. A. QUAYLE, D.D.

Hymn.
Benediction.

## SERVICE FOR DEDICATION OF AN ORGAN (1)

Minister: O sing unto the Lord a new song:
Sing unto the Lord, all the earth.
People: Sing unto the Lord, bless his name:
Show forth his salvation from day to day.
Minister: Declare his glory among the heathen,
His wonders among all people.
People: For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised.
He is to be feared above all gods.
Minister: Honor and majesty are before him:
Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
People: Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people,
Give unto the Lord glory and strength.
Minister: Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name:
Bring an offering and come into his courts.
People: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
Fear before him all the earth.
Minister: It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord,
And to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:
People: To show forth thy loving-kindnesses in the morning,
And thy faithfulness every night;
Minister: Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery;
Upon the harp with a solemn sound.
People: For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work:
I will triumph in the works of thy hands.

Minister: Praise the Lord with harp;
Sing unto him with psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.

People: Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.

Minister: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;

People: Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Minister: For the praise of Almighty God with the voice of melody and the jubilant anthem:

People: *We dedicate this organ.*

Minister: For the leading and inspiring of the service of song, that all the people may praise the Lord:

People: *We dedicate this organ.*

Minister: For the culture of the finer and deeper emotions, for the broadening and elevation of the character:

People: *We dedicate this organ.*

Minister: For the resolving of the soul's discords in peaceful harmonies; for the uplifting of the depressed and the comfort of the sorrowing by its tones of sympathy and cheer; for the stirring of the hearts of men to purposes of duty and to deeds of heroic service in the name of Christ our Lord:

People: *We dedicate this organ.*

Minister: Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: Praise him in the firmament of his power,

People: Praise him for his mighty acts: Praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Minister: Praise him with the sound of trumpet: Praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

People: Praise him upon the loud cymbals: Praise him upon the high sounding cymbals:

Minister: Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

Prayer of Dedication:

Almighty and most merciful God, who hast made the heart of man to respond to the touch of thy Spirit as a harp to the hand of a master, give to us the vision of thy glory as we worship thee. As the morning stars sang together at the creation, and all the myriad voices of nature lift a chorus of praise unto thee, so may our hearts be attuned to adore thee. May this instrument of music which we here dedicate

to thy service contribute to the happiness and welfare of thy children. May its melodious tones cheer the hearts of those who gather in thy holy temple. When little ones are brought here for consecration to thee, and when men and women here enlist as followers of Christ, may its benediction fall sweetly upon them. When marriage vows are spoken here in the brightness of life's morning, or when in the sadness of farewell we pay the last tribute to our sainted loved ones, may its deep-toned message bring a blessing to the spirit. So may this organ give strength to our lives and help forward the triumph of thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction.

—Prepared by Dr. H. Augustine Smith.

## DEDICATION OF AN ORGAN (2)

(The following order for the dedication of an organ is especially reverent, interesting and original. It was prepared by Rev. J. Elmer Russell, D.D., and Mr. J. Emery Kelley, organist and musical director.)

At this time we proceed with the dedication of the Organ to the service for which it is intended. We shall first as a congregation express the several objects to which the organ is set apart. After each there will be an appropriate response from the organ followed by a choral Amen. Then will come the dedicatory prayer.

### THE DEDICATION

Congregation: To the worship of God, our Father, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this organ.

Organ: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty."

(Clarinet as solo stop.)

Congregation: To such a telling through music of the old, old story of redeeming love that men may be led to surrender their hearts and lives to Christ, we dedicate this organ.

Organ: "I Love to Tell the Story."

(French Horn as solo stop.)

Congregation: To the deepening of our sense of all that the Saviour has done for us as we draw near to the Sacra-

ment of the Lord's Supper, so that in penitence we may pledge ourselves to a new obedience, we dedicate this organ.

Organ: "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me."

(Vox Humana as solo stop.)

Congregation: To the memory of apostles, saints, and martyrs, to the recollection that we are the spiritual heirs of all the ages and that with the noble dead we are one in the Faith, we dedicate this organ.

Organ: "Faith of our Fathers! Living Still."

(Tromba as solo stop.)

Congregation: To the quickening of our sense of human need and the deepening of our sympathies, so that we may more generously bear one another's burdens, we dedicate this organ.

Organ: "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life."

(Flute as solo stop.)

Congregation: To the promotion of peace among the nations by the spread of Christian brotherhood throughout the world, we dedicate this organ.

Organ: "Angel of Peace, Thou Hast Tarried too Long."

(English Horn as solo stop.)

Congregation: To the strengthening of our assurance of immortality, to the buttressing of our confidence that death is only an open door to a better world, and to the deepening of our faith that for the Christian to be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord, we dedicate this organ.

Organ: Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar."

(The Harp as solo stop.)

Congregation: To be a perpetual challenge to the church to go forward unitedly, steadily, persistently and mightily in the service of the crucified, risen and conquering Christ, we dedicate this organ.

Organ: "We March, We March to Victory."

Prayer of Dedication.

Hymn by Choir and Congregation.

### FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

(We add the following suggestions as possible aids in such a service:)

Scripture: And he set the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and

Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the Lord by his prophets. And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel. And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.—2 Chron. 29.

"They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ."

Prayer of Dedication:

O God, who by thy servant David didst appoint for the Levites instruments of music of the Lord, to praise thee, because thy mercy endureth forever, graciously vouchsafe to receive at our hands this organ, which we dedicate unto thy service, that we may sing our songs thereto all the days of our life in the house of the Lord; and grant us to do so with the spirit and with the understanding also, that we may be counted amongst them who shall sing the New Song before thy throne.

Sanctify, O Lord, we beseech thee, this instrument of music of the Lord, made to praise thee, because thy mercy endureth forever, and let it be blessed and hallowed, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Benediction:

When the minstrel playeth, the hand of the Lord come upon you, and bless you, and strengthen you for evermore. Amen.

### ANOTHER DEDICATION PRAYER

Unto thee, O Lord, who inhabitest the praises of Israel, to the glory of thy name in the service of thy house, and in memory of thy departed servant A—B—, we dedicate this organ.

We thank thee for the giver and his gift. May its soothing tones bring rest and peace to weary and troubled spirits, make gentle the forward and kindle pure and holy aspirations in all our souls. May it help us to make melody in our hearts unto the Lord, and to worship in the beauty of holiness: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Responsive Scripture Service:

Minister: Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

People: Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Minister: Praise him with the sound of the trumpet; praise him with the psaltery and harp.

People: Praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Minister: Praise him upon the loud cymbals; praise him upon the high-sounding cymbals.

People: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

Doxology:

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

If a memorial organ we suggest:

Requiem Æternam, by Harwood, on the organ.

—G. B. F. H.

## DEDICATION OF CHURCH ORGAN (3)

Hymn: "The Lord is in His Holy Temple."

Invocation and Response.

Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Responsive Reading:

Minister: O praise the Lord all ye nations, praise him all ye people, for his merciful kindness is great toward us and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord.

Elders: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

Congregation: One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.

Minister: My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Choir: While I live will I praise the Lord; I will sing praises unto my God.

Minister: Praise the Lord, O my soul. Praise God in his sanctuary.

Congregation: Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Choir: Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Minister: Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

Elders: It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High.

Congregation: To show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.

Choir: Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery, upon the harp with solemn sound.

All: For thou, Lord, hast made us glad through thy work. We will triumph in the work of thy hands.

Solo.

Presentation of Organ.

Acceptance of Organ.

Doxology.

Dedication of Organ.

Address: "Music in Worship"—Minister.

Dedicatory Prayer.

Closing Hymn—"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord."

Benediction.

## PRAYER AT DEDICATION OF AN ORGAN

Almighty and eternal God, who was pleased in thine ancient church to appoint instruments of music for thy holy worship; accept, we beseech thee, this newly added organ to thy service, and prosper thou our undertaking. Receive the prayers and praises of all those, thy servants, who shall call upon thee here. Consecrate with thy favor and protection the walls we have builded and the pipes of praise we have fixed therein. Bless and sanctify the words we here utter and the songs we sing, to thy glory and the good of the souls whom thou dost love; and thine be the honor and the glory and the thanksgiving, with the Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL ORGAN (4)

Presentation, by the Pastor. On behalf of the Donor.

There is a certain pew in the ..... Church, off the center aisle, which, for many years, received distinction from the figure that sat at its head. It was the figure of a vigorous man, with a noble head, crowned with a wealth of beautiful white hair. While the Scriptures were being read and while the sermon was being preached, the eyes would be fastened intently upon the reader and the preacher. But when the

anthems were being sung, or some sweet melody or stirring passage was being played upon the organ, the head would be slightly thrown back, and the eyes closed, the whole attitude and expression showing how completely the spirit was being given up to the enjoyment of the music.

You all know to whom I refer, our friend and generous benefactor, .....

As long as our great Institute building, his gift to us, stood; as long as the church continued to enjoy the income of his munificent legacy to our Endowment Fund, his name was not likely to be forgotten.

But it will be pleasant to have this additional, and in some ways more personal and intimate memorial of him in our sanctuary, in the form of the Echo Organ, which I now present to the congregation in the name of his beloved wife.

Prayer of Dedication:

Unto thee, O Lord, who inhabitest the praises of Israel, to the glory of thy Name in the service of thy house, and in memory of thy departed servant, we dedicate this organ.

We thank thee for the giver and his gift. May its soothing tones bring rest and peace to weary and troubled spirits; make gentle the froward and kindle pure and holy aspirations in all our souls. May it help us to make melody in our hearts unto the Lord, and to worship in the beauty of holiness: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Responsive Service:

(People Standing.)

Minister: Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

People: Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Minister: Praise him with the sound of the trumpet; praise him with the psaltery and harp.

People: Praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Minister: Praise him upon the loud cymbals; praise him upon the high-sounding cymbals.

People: Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

Doxology (people standing):

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,

Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Organ. Requiem Æternam (Harwood).
Benediction.

## DEDICATION OF AN ORGAN (5)

Pastor: Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his Sanctuary;
Cong.: Praise him in the firmament of his power;
Pastor: Praise him for his mighty acts;
Cong.: Praise him according to his excellent greatness;
Pastor: Praise him with the sound of the trumpet;
Cong.: Praise him with psaltery and harp;
Pastor: Praise him with timbrel and dance;
Cong.: Praise him with stringed instruments and organs;
Pastor: Praise him upon the loud cymbals;
Cong.: Praise him upon the loud sounding cymbals;
Pastor: Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord:
Cong.: Praise ye the Lord.

Collect—Pastor: O Lord, who hast appointed cymbals and trumpets, psalteries and harps for the service of thy Holy Temple, we pray thee graciously to accept from our hands this organ, and let this service be well-pleasing to thee; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Prayer (Pastor and Congregation): Almighty and everlasting God, who dwelleth in the heavens, surrounded by angels and arch-angels, who worship thee saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts," we bless thee that thou also inhabitest the praises of Israel. Accept, we beseech thee, the sacrifice of praise which we bring thee for all thy mercies, and especially for the gift of thy Son, for the founding of thy Church, for the fellowship of thy saints and for the joy of thy service. We thank thee that we are permitted this day to set apart this organ to thy praise. Be pleased to accept and to sanctify this offering. Grant us thy peace, that by its right use we may be assisted in singing the songs of Zion. Pour out thy Holy Spirit upon all who shall here assemble, that they may sing with the spirit and the understanding also. Attune our hearts to sing thy praise on earth that at length we may join with the innumerable company

before thy throne in the unending praise of Heaven, through Jesus Christ, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, be glory and dominion and power, world without end. Amen.

Pastor: And now this organ, set apart by the Word of God and Prayer, is henceforth dedicated to the Worship of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A PULPIT (1)

Salutation: "O Lord, sanctify them through thy truth."

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:33-40.

Hymn: "God in the Gospel of his Son," or "Father of Mercies in thy Word."

Read by a Layman: "As the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. Isa. 55:10, 11.

Prayer of Dedication:

O thou who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said that thy Word is perfect, converting the soul; give thy blessing, we beseech thee, upon this pulpit which we now reverently dedicate to thee. Grant that what is read and spoken from it may so drop as the rain and distill as the dew, that the unsaved may be won to thee and thy people who hear it may thereby be made fruitful in good works, to thy honor and glory, who livest and abidest for ever.

Accept, O Lord, the offering of this pulpit, and grant that from it the good tidings of salvation may ever be faithfully preached, the Holy Scriptures ever rightfully interpreted and the common worship of thy people be conducted in spirit and in truth:

People: Accept it, O Lord.

Minister: God, who hast made known unto us his holy will, give us grace to observe it for evermore. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A PULPIT (2)

Our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who didst command thy chosen ministers to go into all the world and

preach the gospel to every creature, we pray thee to bless, sanctify and hallow this Pulpit which we now place in this church. Bless the givers who have made it possible. Bless the church and people who now receive it. And grant, we pray thee, to all who shall speak therefrom, knowledge of thy truth, plainness of speech in rebuking evil, winsomeness in calling to the good, and persistency and boldness in declaring the whole truth. Grant this, blessed Saviour, for thy mercy's sake, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A PULPIT BIBLE

Almighty God, who hast spoken to us through thy revealed Word; we pray thee to bless and sanctify this Bible. May thy ministers who read it in the appointed services of the church, and the congregations who hear it, be made wise unto salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF COLLECTION PLATES

Almighty God, who delightest in the freewill offerings of thy people, we pray thee to bless and hallow these Collection Plates. Grant that we may all offer thee of our substance according as thou hast blessed us. If we have much, may we give plenteously, and if little, may we give gladly of that little, thus helping forward thy kingdom in the world, and also, we trust, laying up for ourselves a good foundation for the world to come, that we may attain eternal life. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A PULPIT LAMP

Hymn: "Hushed Was the Evening Hymn."

Responsive Reading:

Minister: For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness go forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth.

People: And the nations shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of Jehovah shall name.

Minister: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed.

People: For thou art my lamp, O Jehovah; and Jehovah will lighten my darkness.

Minister: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path.

People: The commandment is a lamp; and the law is light.

Minister: The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah.

People: Jesus said, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Hymn—(one verse):

"I heard the voice of Jesus say,
I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright,
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk,
Till traveling days are done."

Dedication sentences—(To be read in unison):

That hours of worship in the House of God may be radiant and joyous,

We dedicate this lamp.

That as the light shines upon the pages of the Bible, so God's Truth may enlighten our darkness,

We dedicate this lamp.

That this church may be a light-house for Christ in this community,

We dedicate this lamp.

That the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ may shine unto the uttermost parts of the earth,

We dedicate this lamp.

That we may keep the holy memory of Christ's servant in whose name this gift is made,

We dedicate this lamp.

Prayer of dedication.

Response (to be sung by all):

"Send out thy light and thy truth, let them lead me;
O, let them lead me to thy holy hill.
Send out thy light and thy truth, let them lead me;
O, let them bring me to thy holy hill.
O, let them lead me, O, let them lead me;
O, let them bring me to thy holy hill."

## DEDICATION OF A COMMUNION TABLE

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Lord's prayer. All uniting.

Hymn: "O Saving Victim, opening wide."

Or, "O sacred head, now wounded."

Or, "Sweet the moments, rich in blessing."

Dedication: O most glorious God, we acknowledge that we are unworthy to offer to thee anything belonging to us; but we beseech thee, in thy great goodness, to accept this communion table which thy servants now desire to offer to thee; and to bless, hallow and sanctify it that it may be used to thy glory. And earnestly we pray thee to grant that whomsoever shall receive from this table the blessed sacrament of the body and blood of Christ may come to that holy ordinance with faith, charity and true repentance, and, being filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction may, to their great and endless comfort, obtain remission of sins and all other benefits of his passion, through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or this form:

O Lord God, who madest earth and heaven and all that is therein; who didst give thy Son to us that he should shed his blood for us upon the cross and give us the sacrament of that sacred blood and the fruit of the vine; we beseech thee to accept, to bless, hallow and sanctify this communion table, setting it thus apart henceforth from all unseemly uses and for the one holy purpose for which it is designed. And we pray thee, O Father, that we, with all thy faithful ones, who shall come hither to receive the Bread of Life and the Wine of Refreshing may come with true humility and penitence and with a fervent desire to follow thy holy commandments and ways all the days of our life, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Additional suitable prayers (any may be chosen):

O Lord our heavenly Father, whose well-beloved Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, didst offer up himself to thee upon the altar of the cross, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, and didst ordain a pure, unbloody sacrament of bread and wine, as a memorial before thee forever; grant unto us, we beseech thee, and to all who shall

approach this table, that we may come before thee with clean thoughts and pure hearts; with bodies undefiled and minds sanctified, and may perform a service acceptable unto thee; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or this:

Lord Jesus Christ, God that hidest thyself, give us grace, we implore thee, to discern thee spiritually in the most blessed sacrament of thy body and blood; to receive thee into our souls prostrate in adoration, to entertain thee with our utmost love and not let thee go except thou bless us. Grant this, O Saviour, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

Or this:

O God, who in this wonderful sacrament hast left us a perpetual memorial of thy passion, grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy body and blood that we may always perceive in ourselves the fruit of thy redemption, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Closing hymn (if desired): "Bow we then in veneration."

(Or any suitable hymn.)

Antiphon:

O sacred banquet in which Christ is received, the memory of his passion renewed, the mind filled with grace, and the pledge of future glory given unto us,

Choir: Alleluia.

Thou gavest them bread from heaven,

Choir: Alleluia.

Containing in itself all sweetness,

Choir: Alleluia.

—Adapted by G. B. F. H.

## DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL COMMUNION SET

Almighty God, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee anything belonging unto us; yet we beseech thee to accept, bless, sanctify, and hallow these communion vessels (this communion set) that are to be used in commemorating the love of thy Son in dying for us. We bless thy holy Name that it hath pleased thee to put it into the hearts of thy servants to contribute to the beauty, honor and reverent worship of thine house through these memorials. Enlarge, we

beseech thee, this spirit of freewill offerings in all thy people, that thy kingdom may be advanced and the salvation of men be accomplished. Grant, O God, that whosoever shall receive through these gifts the blessed sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ may by thy grace be spiritually and permanently built up in the life of faith and holiness, to the glory of the blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL BAPTISMAL FONT

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Beloved in the Lord, we have again assembled together as the disciples of Jesus Christ, to render thanks unto God for all his mercies, and to recommend ourselves and all our concerns to the care of our heavenly Father. With humble and contrite hearts let us approach the throne of heavenly grace.

The Lord's prayer (Minister and people).

Hymn.

Responsive Reading of Scripture:

Minister: "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?"

People: "He that walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness and speaketh the truth in his heart."

Minister: "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season."

People: His leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Minister: "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth understanding; for the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold."

People: "Length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace."

Minister: "He that giveth his mind to the law of the Most High and is occupied in the meditation thereof will seek out the wisdom of the ancients and be occupied in prophecies."

People: "He will keep the sayings of renowned men, and where subtle parables are he will be there also. He shall show forth that which he hath learned, and shall glory in the law of the covenant of the Lord."

Minister: "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

Then the Minister shall say:

Dearly beloved: We are met to bring to tender remembrance a faithful servant of God and lover of men (in this case a commemoration of a former pastor. Can be adapted to circumstances) who for many years went in and out before this people and this community with godly walk and conversation. He wrought his life into the lives of men and women to whom he was called to minister. Many were led to this altar to receive the rite of baptism and the fellowship of the church, and hither brought they their children to acknowledge the fatherhood of God and to dedicate them to the Christian life. We pay our tribute of affection and honor to a devoted minister of Jesus Christ, a workman who needed not to be ashamed. He left behind an unsullied name into which we have entered, and which shall be to our children. It is therefore highly fitting that we should install and set apart this Baptismal Font in loving memory.

### ACT OF DEDICATION

Minister: To the sacred rite of Christian baptism,

People: *To this we dedicate this font.*

Minister: In grateful acknowledgment that children are a heritage from the Lord,

People: *To this we dedicate this font.*

Minister: To the development of children in wisdom and in stature, and to their increase in favor with God and man,

People: *To this we dedicate this font.*

Minister: In remembrance of Jesus Christ, who suffered the little children to come unto him, and who took them up in his arms and blessed them,

People: *To this we dedicate this font.*

Minister: That it may continually remind us of our high responsibility and duty as parents,

People: *To this we dedicate this font.*

Minister: That children here dedicated, and those of riper years who receive the rite of baptism, may seek full fellowship in this communion,

People: *For this we dedicate this font.*

Minister and People:

So to the praise and glory of God the Father, and in acknowledgment of the dignity of childhood, in loving memory of ..... we install and dedicate this Baptismal Font, that the name of a good man may be kept in honorable remembrance, and that we who have entered into his labors shall continue faithful to the children of God.

Prayer:

Bless, O Lord, and sanctify, we humbly beseech thee, this Font which we now set apart for thy service, and grant that whosoever is here dedicated to thee by holy baptism may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost, delivered from sin and death and be received as a living member of Christ's Church; and may ever remain in the number of thy faithful children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction.

## PRAYER AT DEDICATION OF A WINDOW

Unto thee, O Lord, who didst command thine ancient people, saying, "Let them make me a Sanctuary that I may dwell among them," and who didst instruct them to beautify the place of thy habitation, to the glory of thy name in the adornment of thy house, and in memory of thy departed servants, ..... and ....., we dedicate this window.

We thank thee for all the dear and faithful dead who once kept company with us here in the ways and in the homes of earth, for the blessed power of Memory, through which they continue to live in our hearts and for the precious Hope which shines as a light in a dark place.

Especially do we thank thee to-day for those of whom this window speaks, for their Christian character, their strength and tenderness, their fruitful labors among us.

May those friends and relatives who, out of their love and devotion, have so generously set up this memorial in our church be abundantly rewarded in this life, and afterward may their memory be cherished in the hearts of their friends as they have cherished the memory of these two departed servants of thine in their hearts.

And may this representation of the great Law-giver of thine ancient people ever remind us that this church, like the Tabernacle of old, is not only "the Tabernacle of meeting" but also "the Tabernacle of Testimony," the testimony of that holy Law whereof the first command is, "Thou shalt

love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind and with all their strength," and the second, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

In the name of him to whom Moses and all the prophets bear witness, Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A WINDOW (1)

### *WAR MEMORIAL*

In honor of those connected with ..... Church who served in the World War.

Organ Prelude—"In Paradisum" (Dubois).
Doxology and Invocation.
Hymn—"Onward, Christian Soldiers!"
Quartet—"Festival Te Deum in E Flat" (Buck).
Prayer and Musical Response.
Offertory.
Duet—"All Ye That Weep" (Faure).
Hymn—"The Son of God Goes Forth to War."
Unveiling of Window.
Address.
Quartet—Kipling's "Recessional" (De Koven).
Hymn—"My Country, 'Tis of Thee."
Benediction.
Organ Postlude—"Marche Militaire" (Gounod).
Honor Roll of Heroes.
Description of Window.

## SUGGESTED PRAYER AT DEDICATION OF SEVERAL MEMORIAL WINDOWS (2)

O God, who hast called us out of darkness into marvelous light, mercifully accept our service and graciously receive at our hands these windows which we offer and dedicate to beautify the place of thy sanctuary. Thou who didst inspire the artists of thine ancient Church to adorn the Tabernacle and the Temple with splendid color and rich device, accept and bless, we pray thee, these windows placed here to the praise of thy Name, one in memory of thy servants ..... and ..... and the other the gift of the Women of this Church, both in honor of him who is the brightness of thy glory, a light to lighten the Gentiles, our Lord and Saviour Jesus

Christ. Grant that these symbols of his resurrection life and of his love and care as the Good Shepherd may assist the faith and augment the hope of all who may enter this church. Thou didst give thy Son to be the light of the world and through his humanity didst reveal to us divinity, grant that in all our partial and imperfect symbols of thy truth we may learn more of thy grace and glory. Grant that as thy sunshine passes through these windows and blazons symbols of thy mighty love, we may thankfully receive the teachings thus displayed and be inspired to holier living, that so we may more fully love and serve thee here on earth, and in thy good time behold the full light of thy presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## BENEDICTION OF A CHURCH WINDOW (3)

Choir.

Responsive Reading: Ps. 24, "The earth is the Lord's," etc.

Gloria:

Dedication (Minister): Dearly beloved in the Lord; forasmuch as devout and holy men, as well under the law as under the Gospel, moved either by the express command of God, or by the secret inspiration of the blessed Spirit, and acting agreeably to their own reason and sense of the natural decency of things, have erected houses for the public worship of God, and separated them from all unhallowed, worldly, and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for his glorious Majesty, and seeking to further enhance this outward expression of inward grace with the gift of beauty, they do now offer up this window with praise and supplication that our heavenly Father may bless the undertaking faithfully and devoutly made in his name—through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Ps. 20; Ps. 84.

Prayer (Minister): Heavenly Father, enlighten our souls with the higher aspirations of mercy and forgiveness and helpfulness for all. Deliver us from the temptation to live for the things that perish. Let the beauty of this world teach us of that more real world of which this is a symbol, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction.

—G. B. F. H.

## UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF CHURCH MEMORIAL WINDOW (4)

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (all uniting).

Minister: "There is sprung up a light for the righteous."

People: "And joyful gladness for such as are true-hearted."

Antiphon: "I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord."

Scripture Lesson: Ps. 27, "The Lord is my light and my salvation," etc. Also Ps. 84, "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!" etc.

Gloria: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

The Chapter: "O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established; thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear; and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." Isa. 54:11-17.

Response by People: "Thanks be to God."

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us pray: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Choir, or People: And grant us thy salvation.

Minister: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir, or People: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Sing an appropriate hymn. (Suggested: "Light of the World, We Hail Thee," by Rev. John S. B. Monsell. Music

by W. H. Gilchrist, 7.6.7.6.D. Or, "O Light, Whose Beams Illuminate All," by Rev. Edward H. Plumptre. Music, "St. Matthias," 8.8.8.8.8.8, by William H. Monk. Or, "Walk in the Light; So Shalt Thou Know," by Bernard Barton. Tune: "Nox Præcessit," C. M., by J. Baptiste Calkin.)

Minister: Turn us again, O Lord of hosts.

People: Show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Minister: Show thy servants thy work.

People: And their children thy glory.

Minister: Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.

People: O prosper thou our handiwork.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, who hast called us out of darkness into thy marvelous light, mercifully accept our service, and graciously receive at our hands this window, which we offer and dedicate to beautify the place of thy sanctuary, in memory of thy servant ..... and in honor of Him, the brightness of thy glory, whom thou hast given to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, even Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

(One or more of these prayers may be added.)

O God, who didst inspire the artists of thine ancient Church to adorn the tabernacle and the temple with splendid color and rich device; accept and bless, we pray thee, this window, placed here to praise thy goodness and to remind us of thy faithful servant now passed unto his rest. Grant that its symbols and its story may assist our faith and augment our hope, that so we may more fully love and serve thee here on earth, and in thy good time behold the full light of thy presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who didst give thy Son to be the light of the world, and through his humanity didst reveal to us divinity; grant that in all our partial and imperfect symbols of thy truth, and especially in the window now placed here to honor thy name and proclaim thy Gospel, we may learn more of thy grace and glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, who hast called us out of darkness into thy marvelous light; grant that as thy sunshine passes through this

window and blazons symbols of thy mighty love, we may thankfully receive the teachings thus displayed, and be inspired to holier living by remembrance of the saints of old; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Benediction.

(If desirable, a brief sermon may be given before the benediction, on such a text as John 1:4, "And the life was the light of men"; or John 1:9, "That was the true light, which lighteth every man," etc., or John 8:12, "I am the light of the world." I. Light beautifies. II. Light gladdens. III. Light vivifies and strengthens. "The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin: The light of the world is Jesus.")

—Service compiled and adapted by G. B. F. H.

## PRAYER AT DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL WINDOW

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who didst inspire the artists of thine ancient Church to adorn the tabernacle and the temple with splendid color and rich device; accept and bless we pray thee this Window, placed here to magnify thy goodness and to remind us of thy faithful servant (now passed unto his (her) rest). Grant that its symbols and its story may assist our faith and augment our hope, so that we and all who may behold shall more fully love and serve thee here on earth, and in thy good time behold the full light of thy presence. Thou didst indeed give thy Son to be the light of the world, and through his humanity didst reveal unto us divinity; grant that in our partial and imperfect symbols of thy truth, and especially in this window now placed here to honor thy Name and proclaim thy Gospel, we may learn more of thy grace and glory. And as thou hast called us out of darkness into thy marvelous light, grant that as thy sunshine passes through this window and blazons symbols of thy love, we may receive the teachings thus displayed and be inspired to holier living. We thank thee for the message it carries, for the truths it suggests, for the influence of its beauty. Help us all to cultivate the beauty of holiness. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A CHURCH BELL

(The bell may be dedicated before it is placed in the tower or steeple, or after it is put there. This service is suitable in either case. If before, it may be placed at a convenient height, and the minister, standing at its side, begins:)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord's prayer. All uniting.

Minister: "Our help is in the name of the Lord our God."

People: "Who hath made heaven and earth."

Minister: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost."

People: "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

Minister: "Dearly beloved brethren, let us beseech the mercy of God the Father Almighty, that he, hearkening to our cry, may sanctify with his blessing this bell (these bells) now to be consecrated to him and to his service."

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us pray: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Choir or People: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Almighty God, who by the mouth of thy servant Moses didst command to make two silver trumpets for the convocation of solemn assemblies, be pleased to accept our offering of this, the work of our hands; bless, hallow and sanctify it with thy heavenly benediction, and grant that through this generation and through those that are to come it may continually call together thy faithful people to praise and worship thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be called by the sound of this bell to thine house of prayer may enter into thy gates with thanksgiving, and into thy courts with praise; and finally may have a portion in the new song, and among the harpers, harping with their harps in thine house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall by reason of sickness or any other necessity, be so let and hindered that he cannot come into the house of the Lord, may in heart and mind

thither ascend and have his share in the communion of thy saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that they who with their outward ears shall hear the sound of this bell may be aroused inwardly in their spirits, and draw nigh unto thee, the God of their salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that all they, for whose passing away from this world the bell shall sound, may be received into the paradise of thine elect and find grace, light, and everlasting rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that all they who shall minister to thy service by ringing this bell may be filled with all reverence and godly fear, and, mindful of the sacredness of thy house, may put away from them all idle thoughts and light behavior in the discharge of their service, and so continue in holiness of life, that they may be counted to stand with them who praise thee evermore in the heavenly Jerusalem. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(One or more of these prayers may be added or chosen instead of others.)

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that it hath pleased thee to put into the heart of thy servant to offer this memorial to thy praise and honor. Let thy blessing be upon him, his family and his substance. Accept, we beseech thee, his charitable work. Give him abundantly of thy grace in the present life, and in the world to come life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who didst sanctify material things to the honor and glory of the church; we entreat thee to bless and hallow this bell set apart for the services of thine house. May its voice be a joyful sound to all Christian people, bidding to prayer and praise, and a right keeping of thy holy day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We beseech thee, almighty God, that this bell may speak in warning tones to the ungodly and the careless of the claims of thy house of prayer and lead them to seek a new life in thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, that the sound of this bell, calling faithful souls to the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, may be heeded by us, that through the power of the holy communion Christ may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, we pray thee that those who are suffering from any sickness whereby they cannot appear in thy courts may through this sounding bell have comforting and peaceful thoughts of thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, vouchsafe, we beseech thee, that the tolling of this bell at the passing away of any mortal life, may lead us to holy anticipations of that life which knows no ending; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Then shall they ring one short peal, after which this hymn may be sung:)

Raised between the earth and heaven,
  Now our bells are set on high;
In the name of Him who giveth
  Skill, and strength and industry.

For his praise we meekly lay them
  As a gift beneath his throne;
All their sweet and noblest music
  Shall resound for him alone.

Faithful men afar shall listen,
  'Mid their daily toil or rest,
While the melody shall bid them
  Love the Church where all are blest.

When the spirits of the faithful
  Pass away to light and peace;
Solemn tones shall then forewarn us
  Soon our life and work must cease.

May these loud and well-tuned voices
  Pealing forth in grand accord,
Lift our hearts through joy and sorrow
  To thy throne, most gracious Lord.

—W. B. Smith.

Tune "Havergal," 8.7.9.7., by W. H. Havergal. Or "Stuttgard," by H. L. Hassler. Or any suitable tune of this metre.

(Another good hymn is one beginning, "Lift it gently to the steeple," etc. Author unknown.)

Benediction:

(If desirable a brief sermon may be given before the benediction, on such a text as, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Ps. 122:1; or one of invitation like, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17.)

—Compiled and adapted by G. B. F. H.

## SERVICE FOR DEDICATION OF CHURCH CHIMES

Prelude—"Meditation" (Sturges).

Doxology—

The Lord's Prayer—

Chimes: "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Minister: Dearly beloved brethren, let us beseech the mercy of God the Father Almighty, that, hearkening to our cry, he may sanctify with his blessing these chimes now to be consecrated to him and to his service. The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us pray: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

People: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Minister: Almighty God, the Creator of all things, who hast caused thy light to break forth from the darkness, so that order and beauty and harmony might fill the earth, hear us as we pray: Grant that these chimes, which are to be dedicated to thee, may yield a fruitful ministry. May they bear a message of strength to the faint-hearted, a message of assurance to the sick, the afflicted, and the sad. May they sing sweet melodies of Christian faith to all children; may they recall the claims of Christ to all wanderers, thus bringing them back to God; may every ringing of these chimes be a summons to worship and an invitation to pray; may their tones resound so sweetly over this place that they shall suggest and present the music of the higher life of heaven; and as we now designate these chimes as prepared for thy worship and dedicate them to this high service, let thy blessing attend us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Minister: Grant, O Lord, that they who with their outward ears shall hear the sound of these chimes may be aroused inwardly in their spirits, and draw nigh unto thee, the God of their salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Minister: Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall by reason of sickness or any other necessity, be so let and hindered that he cannot come into the house of the Lord, may in heart and mind thither ascend and have his share in the communion of thy saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Minister: Grant, O Lord, that all they who shall minister to thy service by sounding these chimes may be filled with all reverence and Godly fear, and, mindful of the sacredness of thy house, may put away from them all idle thoughts and light behavior in the discharge of their service, and so continue in holiness of life that they may be counted worthy to stand with them who praise thee evermore in the heavenly Jerusalem. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Chimes—"Joy to the World."

Anthem—"St. Cecilia" Messe Solonnelle (Gounod).

Scripture Lesson—

Prayer—

Offertory Duet—"Thy Will Be Done" (Schnecker).

Offertory Chant—"All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee."

(All rise with the choir).

(Congregation remains standing).

Hymn—

Sermon—

Benediction—

Postlude—"Torchlight March" (Guilmant).

## UNVEILING A CHURCH PICTURE (1)

Almighty God our heavenly Father, Author of the true and the beautiful, bless and sanctify, we beseech thee, this Picture which we place in thy house for its adornment. Bless the givers who have made it possible. Bless the church and people who now receive it. Grant that all who look upon it may have a larger and more comprehensive view of the

mission of thy dear Son (of the truths which the picture portrays). May they be brought nearer to him and into sympathy with his saving work. May we praise thee day by day for the glorious doctrine of his Incarnation, and by this faith be brought to the life immortal. We ask through his blessed Name. Amen.

## SERVICE OF UNVEILING A RELIGIOUS PAINTING (2)

(The following service is suggestive. The occasion was the unveiling of a sacred painting placed on the wall of the church just above the pulpit. The words of introduction were: "The unveiling of this painting, 'Jesus the Great Teacher,' by Geza Kende, will add greatly to the spiritual atmosphere of this church. The picture is the gift of a friend.")

### THE UNVEILING SERVICE

Minister: Dearly beloved, we come reverently into God's house to dedicate this painting, depicting our Great Teacher teaching the multitude, which was prepared for the glory of God our Father, the worship of Christ Jesus our Saviour, and the making spiritual the work and worship of our Church.

People: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that sayeth unto Zion, Thy God reigneth."

Minister: To encourage prayer and intercession; to give light and guidance; to create trust and confidence; to instill consecration and faith.

People: "He that findeth his life shall lose it, and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

Minister: To promote the spirit of service; to further Christian Brotherhood; to teach Missions.

People: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel, to every creature." "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

Minister: For the inspiration of the young; for the joy of the old; for comfort to the sad; for balm to the sick.

People: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Minister: That we may tell through the eye as well as the ear the beauty and majesty of the Lord Christ,

All: We dedicate this Painting.

Dedicatory Sermon—"Jesus the Great Teacher."

—Rev. John P. Sala.

## SERVICE RECOGNIZING COMPLETION OF CHURCH DECORATIONS

Salutation: "How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel."

Scripture: "The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious. The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel."

Responsive Reading:

Minister: "O Lord, my God, hearken unto the cry and to the prayers of thy servant and of thy people."

People: "That thine eyes may be open towards this house night and day."

Minister: "Bring us to thy holy mountain."

People: "And make us joyful in thy house of prayer."

Minister: "Ascribe unto the Lord the honor due unto his Name."

People: "Bring presents, and come into his courts."

Prayer:

O Lord God Almighty, who didst put wisdom and understanding into the hearts of Bezaleel and Aholiab, to know how to work all manner of work for the sanctuary, and who, by the mouth of David the King, taughtest Solomon to adorn thy temple; mercifully bless the labors of thy servants who have wrought such beauty in this sanctuary. Bless to the comfort, the inspiration and an increasing sense of worship all who enter this house of devotion. Bless those who conceived and wrought the work and all who offered willingly of their means to accomplish it. Grant that as they have given gladly for thy house on earth they may attain at length unto that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction: The Name of the God of Jacob defend you, strengthen you out of Zion, remember all your offerings, grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your mind. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF CHOIR STALLS

Vouchsafe, we beseech thee, O Almighty God, to accept, bless and sanctify these Choir Stalls for thy service, and grant that we who are permitted to worship thee in thy courts below may hereafter be numbered with those blessed ones, who, having washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, shall stand before thy throne and serve thee day and night in thy temple above, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SERVICE FOR DEDICATION OF HYMN BOOKS

Leader: Sing unto the Lord a new song.

Assembly: Let all the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

Leader: O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Assembly: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

Leader: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him and bless his name.

Assembly: O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.

Leader: Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with a song.

Assembly: O that we may be filled with the goodness of thy house, the holiness of thy temple.

Leader: O let the nations be glad, and sing for joy. Let the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Assembly: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

Leader: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

Assembly: Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Assembly: And our mouths shall show forth thy praise.

Leader: Praise ye the Lord.
Assembly: The Lord's name be praised.
Hymn (To Old Hundredth):

We'll crowd thy gates with thankful songs,
High as the heavens our voices raise;
And earth, with her ten thousand tongues,
Shall fill thy courts with sounding praise. Amen.

Leader: That we may behold the beauty of the Lord and inquire in his temple:
Assembly: We dedicate this book. (Hold book high.)
Leader: That our social worship may be real and uplifting:
Assembly: We dedicate this book.
Leader: That our thoughts may be purified, our feelings sweetened, our wills sanctified:
Assembly: We dedicate this book.
Leader: That we may sing with the inspired souls of all ages:
Assembly: We dedicate this book.
Leader: That our voices may spread the good news of thy kingdom:
Assembly: We dedicate this book.
Leader: That the melody of righteousness may sound forth at all times:
Assembly: We dedicate this book. (Lower book.)
Prayer of Dedication:
Vouchsafe, we beseech thee, O Almighty God, to accept, bless and sanctify these Hymn Books for use in thy service. Thou art worshiped by the heavenly hosts with hymns that are never silent and with thanksgivings that never cease; fill our mouths with thy praise. Help us to sing with the spirit and understanding and make melody in our hearts unto the Lord. Help us truly to magnify thy Holy Name; and grant us, with all those that fear thee and keep thy commandments, to be partakers of the inheritance of thy saints in light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.—H.
Assembly: Hymn (to St. Anne):

The harp at Nature's advent strung
Has never ceased to play;
The songs the star of morning sung
Have never died away. Amen.

Leader: In the hymn book is the true key to the doctrine of the communion of saints; for here the saintly ones of all ages meet in their saintliest mood.

Lord, we know thy love rejoices o'er each work of thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices for thy praise combine;
Craftmen's art and music's measure for thy pleasure didst design.

Benediction.

—Prepared by Dr. H. Augustine Smith.

## DEDICATION OF AN ILLUMINATED CROSS

Hymn: "Must Jesus bear his cross alone?"

Prayer.

Responsive Reading:

Minister: "But far be it from me to glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified unto me, and I unto the world."—Gal. 6:14.

People: "Then saith Jesus unto his disciples, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."—Matt. 6:24.

Minister: "Whosoever doth not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple."—Luke 14:27.

People: "And when they had led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon of Cyrene, coming from the country, and laid on him the cross, to bear it after Jesus."—Luke 23:26.

Minister: "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: Not in wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made void. For the word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God."—1 Cor. 1:17.

People: "Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." —Heb. 12:1, 2.

Solo: "The Wayside Cross."

Dedication of Illuminated Cross (Dedication sentences to be read in unison):

That this people may be always reminded of the crucified Christ, our Saviour,

*We Dedicate this Lighted Cross.*

That the light of the cross may send its illuminating rays and that Bible truth may dispel ignorance and sin,

*We Dedicate this Lighted Cross.*

With desire that the Gospel and the power of Christ may be known and felt in all the world,

*We Dedicate this Lighted Cross.*

That we may reverently honor and constantly remember the blessings we have received and the light of liberty we enjoy,

*We Dedicate this Lighted Cross.*

Hymn: "Jesus, keep me near the cross."

Sermon: "The First Cross."

Hymn: "The way of the cross leads home."

Benediction.

## BLESSING OF MARRIAGE RING OR RINGS

(Occasionally individuals desire to have marriage rings blessed. The following are forms for one ring or two rings.)

Almighty God, we beseech thee to sanctify and hallow this ring, and grant that he who gives it, and she who receives it, may live each for the other, and both for thee; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Where two rings are used.)

Gracious God, we beseech thee to bless and sanctify these Rings, that they may ever be tokens of the constancy and love existing between these, thy servants, and of the covenant they have assumed. Grant this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A MISSIONARY SHIP

Bless and sanctify, O Lord, this Missionary Ship, and speed the winds and waves as they bear her with her messengers of salvation to lands that know not thee. Save and deliver her in storms and perils, and may all who sail in her be under thy special protection and guidance. Fill them with thy love and peace, and help them in every land and under every sky to uphold and honor the blessed cross of Christ. Grant this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL TABLET

To the glory of God and in reverent memory of his servant, our brother (name—possibly) we bless and have here set this memorial, that all who enter this place of worship may know that he gave up his life for his country; in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. We bless thy Name, O Lord, for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their examples that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL TABLET OR MONUMENT

(The following form may be used for a memorial tablet in a church or adjusted for use in unveiling a monument in public square or cemetery, in honor of a single individual or of many.)

O Almighty God, King of kings, and Lord of lords, who rulest all things in heaven and earth, we adore thee as the giver of every good and perfect gift; as the author of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; as the bestower of all our civil as well as religious benefits. We thank thee for that favor which thou hast extended over the people of this country from the beginning; for the peculiar providences by which from the earliest period of their history they were made ready for the important part they were to perform in the execution of thy mighty plans in the development of mankind. We thank thee especially for that noble body of men and women by whose heroic efforts in the face of great difficulties the independence of our nation was secured and we enabled to enter upon our splendid heritage of freedom and prosperity. Ever preserve in us a due recognition of their self-denying labors and sacrifices. As we to-day engage in this commemorative ceremonial, and unveil and bless this monument (tablet) erected as an honorable memorial to one (those) to whom both our own state and our nation are indebted for extraordinary services at a crucial time in our history, may we recall with proper gratitude what he (they) and others of like spirit wrought for us, and may the fire of the same lofty

patriotism that burned in him (them) and them be kindled in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL GIFTS

(These prayers may be used in such dedications, or may be added to others that appear in connection with such services. They are appropriate for varied dedications. They may well be changed to become appropriate to yet others.)

O most glorious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee anything belonging to us; yet we beseech thee, in thy great goodness, graciously to accept the dedication of (these memorials) to thy service, and to prosper this our undertaking. Receive the prayers and intercessions of all those, thy servants, who shall call upon thee in this house, and give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve thee with reverence and godly fear. Affect them with a due apprehension of thy divine Majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness, that so approaching thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion, and coming before thee with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified, they may always perform a service acceptable to thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What are we, O Lord God, and what is this people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. Accept the oblations of thy servants, who in the uprightness of their hearts have willingly offered these things (may be named); and give unto them a perfect heart to keep thy commandments, thine ordinances and thy sacraments; and be pleased to grant them a greater ability and an increasing love to serve thee with all their souls and bodies, with all their time and all their goods, that thou mayest be honored with all their heart and all their strength. Amen.

And here we do give unto thee most high praise and hearty thanks for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all thy saints, from the beginning of the world, whose example, O Lord, and steadfastness in thy faith, and keeping thy commandments, grant us to follow. We commemorate before thee, O Lord, all others, thy servants, which are departed

hence from us with the sign of faith, and now do rest in the sleep of peace; (and especially at this time thy servants of whom these gifts are memorials before thee). Grant unto them, we beseech thee, thy mercy and everlasting peace; and at the day of the general resurrection we and all they which be of the mystical body of thy Son, may altogether be set on his right hand, and hear that his most joyful voice: Come unto me, O ye that be blessed of my Father, and possess the kingdom which is prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

Blessed be thy Name, O Lord, that it has pleased thee to put into the heart of thy servant to offer this (Memorial) to thy praise and honor. Let thy blessing be upon him, his family and his substance (or her). Accept, we beseech thee, his generous and thoughtful work. Give him abundantly of thy grace in the present life, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

O God, who hast chosen material things to be the instruments of divine grace, grant us so to realize the glory of that heavenly fellowship wherein thou callest us to worship thee, that we may the better show our reverence for thy Majesty by our care for thy holy house, and in the beauty with which we are permitted to celebrate thy sacred functions, may attain to the more faithful acknowledgment of their inward power to the glory of thy great Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING

### ACT OF DEDICATION

Pastor: In recognition of the Sabbath School as a vital and integral part of the Church of Christ, and that the Church is responsible for the instruction of the young in the doctrines and duties of the Gospel, as Christ commanded to feed the Lambs; and in the faith that it is not the will of God that one of these little ones should perish,

People: *We dedicate this house.*

Pastor: For worship in prayer and gifts, and by psalms

and hymns and spiritual songs; for instruction of the sacred Scriptures according to the divine command, "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, that they might set their hopes in God,"

People: *We dedicate this house.*

Pastor: With the prayer that all those who teach here, now and in the years to come, may be endued with the Holy Spirit to rightly divide the word of truth, be made wise to win souls to Christ, turning many to righteousness,

People: *We dedicate this house.*

Pastor: With the prayer that this building may ever stand for the great things of the Kingdom of God, a testimony to the grace and glory of the Gospel of Christ, a center of holy life and humane service to all needy souls in this community,

People: *We dedicate this house.*

Pastor: That it may minister to the betterment of the home, to the protection of childhood, to the purity of boyhood, to the modesty of maidenhood, to the holiness of womanhood,

People: *We dedicate this house.*

Pastor: For the fraternal union of all people in this community, for the nurture of a closer Christian fellowship among all classes and conditions of men, women and children who shall meet here for Christian worship and instruction on a common footstool of mercy, children of one God, redeemed by one Cross, bound together in the same commonwealth, makers of one divine democracy,

People: *We dedicate this house.*

Pastor: For the cultivation of a truly Christian social life in this church, for the promotion of a human brotherhood based on the divine Fatherhood, for the utilization of everything in art and literature that will elevate and refine and sweeten human life,

People: *We dedicate this house.*

Pastor: For the enlightenment of the mind, for the education of the conscience, for the salvation of the soul, for the perfecting of our whole being, body, mind and soul,

People: *We dedicate this house.*

Dedicatory Prayer.

Dedicatory Address.

## PRAYER AT DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING

O Lord God, who art the giver of all wisdom, and willest that children should be brought up in the fear and love of thy holy Name; pour down, we beseech thee, the gift of thy loving-kindness upon this place that all who shall be gathered together in it for Sunday School and other meetings may grow in thy grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Blessed by thy Name, O Lord, that it hath pleased thee to put it into the hearts of thy servants to build this school to thy praise and honor. Let thy blessing be upon them, their families and their substance, and accept their righteous and charitable work. Remember them concerning this. Wipe not out this kindness which they have done, and grant that all they who shall hereafter enjoy the benefit of this acceptable work may show forth their thankfulness by rightly using it, to the glory of thy blessed Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A PARISH HOUSE

Hymn: "Founded on thee, our only God" (S. F. Smith).

Salutation: "Be ye kindly affectioned one to another, with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."

"Above all things, have fervent charity among yourselves. For charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

Scripture (responsively): "The earth is the Lord's," etc. Psalm 24.

### ACT OF DEDICATION

Pastor: To thy glory, O God, our Father, by whose favor we have built this house;

To the honor of Jesus; thy Son, our Saviour, and for the advancement of his kingdom among men;

To the praise of thy Holy Spirit, God with us, our guide to the truth;

People: *We dedicate this house.*

Pastor: For the promotion of community spirit;

For strength to the young, in body, mind and soul;

For help to right thinking and right living;

People: *We dedicate this house.*
Pastor: For the help of the needy;
For the promotion of brotherhood;
For the redemption of men;
People: *We dedicate this house.*
Pastor: For fostering patriotism;
For the training of the public conscience;
For aggressive service against all evil;
People: *We dedicate this house.*

Unison: Now, therefore, we humbly beseech thee, accept thou the offering which we bring thee this day. As a tribute of gratitude and love, a freewill offering of gratitude and praise, we the people of this church and congregation now dedicate this entire building. Amen.

Prayer: Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that it hath pleased thee to put into the hearts of thy servants to build this Parish House (Community House, Chapel) to thy praise and honor. Let thy blessing be upon them, their pious and charitable work. Remember them concerning this: Wipe not out this kindness which they have done, and grant that all they who shall hereafter enjoy the benefit of this work may show forth their thankfulness by rightly using it, to the glory of thy blessed name. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Or this, or both):

O Lord, God, who art the giver of all wisdom, and willest that children and young people should be brought up in the fear and love of thy holy name; pour down, we beseech thee, the gift of thy loving-kindness upon this place, that all who shall be gathered together in it for Sunday School, social and other activities may grow in thy grace, and be delivered from all evils of body, mind and soul. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Or this):

O God, whose glory is great in all thy churches, and the praises of whose name resound in the assembly of thy saints; we, thy servants, would humble ourselves before thee, and worship thine infinite majesty. We celebrate thy wisdom, power and goodness, that shine forth in the works of creation and redemption through Jesus Christ our Lord. We bless thee for all temporal and spiritual good that we continually

receive at thy bountiful hands. But more especially, with all thy people assembled this day, we praise thee that thou didst send into the world thy Son to save us; and having delivered him up for our offenses didst raise him again for our justification; and that through his glorious resurrection hast given us the blessed hope of everlasting life. O Lord, may these, our thanksgivings, come up with acceptance before thy throne. Make us worthy to have part in the resurrection of the just, and the glory of thine eternal kingdom; whither Jesus the forerunner hath entered, where now he lives and reigns and is worshiped and glorified; with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, blessed forevermore. Amen.

Hymn: "Arise, O King of grace, arise" (I. Watts).

Benediction: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God," etc.

—Compiled and adapted by G. B. F. H.

## DEDICATION OF A NEW SCHOOL HOUSE

Salutation: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth."

Hymn.

Leader: "Come, ye children, and hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

Response: "Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law. Yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart."

Scripture: Psalm 8 and Psalm 119:9-16.

Prayer of Dedication:

Almighty and merciful God, graciously bow down thine ear to the petitions of thy servants; hallow with the might of thy blessing this school-house, erected for the instruction of thy children, and vouchsafe the gift of thy grace to all who come to learn within its walls, that they may grow up in thy faith and fear, and obtain remission of their sins. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Address.

Hymn.

Benediction.

## FORM SETTING APART A LIFEBOAT

(Ministers are sometimes asked to offer prayer or set apart a lifeboat to its ministry of rescuing those in peril. The following may be found helpful in such a service.)

Scripture: Ps. 46; Ps. 107: 23-32; Mark 6: 47-52.

Prayer:

O Lord God Almighty, who savest Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water, who didst deliver Jonah from the sea-monster, and thine apostle Paul from the perils of the deep; bless, we pray thee, this boat, that it may, by thy help, assist in the preservation of human life, and that those whom it rescues may ever thankfully praise thy holy name. O Lord Jesus Christ, whom the winds and sea obey; who savest thy disciples even when thou seemest to sleep; aid with thy strong right hand the crew of this boat, that their toils may be blest and they themselves guarded by thee in all time of need; through thy mercy, O blessed Lord, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest one God, world without end. Amen.

Hymn: "Jesus, Saviour, pilot me."

Benediction.

## DEDICATION OF A HOME (1)

### A SACRED SERVICE WORTHY OF BEING OBSERVED

The other day one of the members of our church asked if I would dedicate the new home into which she had recently moved. She wanted to invite guests and serve dinner and make an affair out of it. I told her the idea was new to me; I had dedicated many church houses, but this was my first invitation to dedicate a home.

So I asked her to let me see what the Bible had to say about it. I had not searched long until I came across Deuteronomy 20: 5: "And the officers shall speak unto the people saying, What man is there that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in battle, and another man dedicate it." I then agreed to go and dedicate that new home.

And in the meantime I did a lot of thinking about our homes, and here are some of the things that ran through my mind:

We read these days about the great shortage in houses. No town or city has houses to supply its increasing population. But that is nothing to compare with the shortage in homes, real homes.

We take our visitors for a drive and we say, "That is the home of Colonel so-and-so."

Is that so? No! If we spoke more truly we would say, "That is his house." He sleeps there (part of the time) and usually eats breakfast there. But he lives in his office, lunches uptown, dines at the club and frolics at the theater. Yes, he has two or three houses, one for the winter and one for the summer, but no "Home, Sweet Home."

So it is with many of the places we pass, they are only houses, not homes.

"A house is built of bricks and stones, of sills and posts and piers,
But a home is built of loving deeds that stand a thousand years.
A house, though but a humble cot, within its walls may hold
A home of priceless beauty, rich in love's eternal gold."

What has become of the mottoes we were wont to see as we went from home to home, "God Bless Our Home."

That motto has been discarded because it does not fit any more. But to hang up one saying, "God Bless Our Flat," or, "Our Apartment," or "Our Hotel," or, "Our Room," or "Our Tenement," would not sound right.

One of our foreign missionaries reports that in one village scores of heathen altars have tumbled down and the true God is now worshiped instead. I rejoiced when I read this statement, but wondered what the report of a heathen in this country would be on the question of our family altars? Have they not been falling down fast with idols being set up in their stead?

We need to have dedications of the new homes being built, and some old homes may need rededication.

Since relating the above story to my people I have had several invitations to dedicate new homes. It is a wonderful privilege and pleasure, and I wonder if many a pastor's heart would not glow afresh if the people would set about dedicating their homes?

## WHY A HOME SHOULD BE DEDICATED

To dedicate means to set apart to specific purposes, so I will give some of the purposes to which one's home should be dedicated.

1. To diligent religious instruction. Of course every normal home is supposed to have children. Not to have them was a reproach among God's people. (Gen. 15:2, 3; 1 Sam. 1:6, 7.) Children are given in answer to prayer (1 Sam. 1:10). They are the gift of God (Ps. 127:3).

Therefore it is written, "These words which I command thee this day, shall be in thy heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children" (Deut. 6:7).

Children are the little rulers of the world, capable of infinite possibilities for either good or bad. And what they learn the first ten years will largely determine their character, career and destiny for time and eternity.

They should be taught to memorize Scripture from the time they can talk. They should be taught the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the necessity for regeneration, and the blessedness of being God's child by faith in Jesus Christ. They should be taught honesty and sobriety, morality and godliness, obedience and loyalty.

2. To the highest social and civic ideals. The first four of the ten commandments having been dealt with and the family's attitude toward God settled, the remaining six commands should then be taken up.

The terrible tides of lawlessness now sweeping the earth are traceable directly to the breaking down of authority at its source, in the home. Children who are permitted to disrespect their parents and disregard parental authority will have little regard in after life for the rights of their fellows, and will consider themselves above the laws of both man and God.

3. To thoughtful religious conversation. "Thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house."

I would dislike to describe the average family circle conversation. Hats and shoes, and dresses and automobiles, and the movies and on and on. What poverty of heart and brain is revealed in the ordinary conversation of the day!

4. To religious hospitality. Oh, what a haven of rest was the home of the Shunammite to the prophet, and that of the Bethany sisters to Jesus, and that of Lydia to Paul.

5. To devout religious worship. The home without its family altar is denying itself life's greatest treasure.

If every home would become a church, every church would soon become a home. Jeremiah (10:25) pronounces a severe curse upon the prayerless home.

The world is dependent upon America, America is dependent upon the church, and the church is dependent upon the home. If the home leaves out God and remains undedicated to high and holy purposes, the church and the nation and the world will collapse.

How shall we escape if we neglect the home?

—Rev. E. M. Dodd, D.D.

## DEDICATION OF A HOME (2)

(Pastors are sometimes asked to suggest or take part in such a service as is here described. It is well to be able to suggest a model or prepare such a service.)

In a modest but very home-like new dwelling in ..... on Saturday afternoon, April 21, 1923, it was the privilege of about five score chosen friends of Mr. and Mrs. ..... and their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. ..... to witness a simple but devout ceremony which might well serve as a model for the founding of any American home. It was the dedication to the spirit of Faith, Hope and Love, and to Good Citizenship, of a newly built house, which is to be the home of three generations of the family. Like the setting up of the Lares and Penates on the hearthstone of the family in the days of classic Rome to be the protecting spirits of the household, this ceremony centered around the hearth upon which the cheer-giving fire was lighted for the first time by the family and fed by wood added by the friends; but instead of idols of pagan gods, the spirit of the household was set up in an inscription above the fireplace, which, in recognition of the blessings of Almighty God, dedicated the home to Faith, Hope and Love. And as the Roman youth, on attaining his majority, paid his tribute to the Lares and Penates of his home, or as the Athenian youth, on attaining citizenship, took the oath to transmit his city better than he received it, so the dedication of the home and of the rising generation, which is to dwell in it, to Good Citizenship was clearly indicated in the address of the chief speaker.

It was a beautiful spring day, itself full of faith and hope of renascent nature. The sun was shining unclouded; the warmth of summer was in the air; the trees were beginning to put forth their leaves; the forsythia and early shrubs were in bloom; and the nest-building birds were singing the songs of the new homes which they were building with happy anticipation.

Gradually the company concentrated in the large library, a corner of which was brightened by blooming forsythia. From the center of the mantelpiece hung an inconspicuous piece of drapery, covering the dedication panel.

About 4.30 p. m., all joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne."

Mr. ..... then said a few words of greeting, extending a cordial invitation to all their friends to come to their home often, assuring them that they would be very welcome.

Mr. ..... then said:

"The house was built without any mishap or unpleasantness in all the work. There were no disagreements and no workman was discharged. We did not run up against any trouble, which, as a man of considerable business experience, I thought might occur. This seemed to me very unusual, and as I thought about it, I felt sure that it was due to the prayer which I always had in mind during all the work: 'Direct us, O Lord, in all things with thy most gracious favors, and further us with thy continued help, that in all our works, begun and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name.' When you came in to-day, it was only a house; when you leave it, it is a home. Now we will dedicate it."

Here Mr. ..... withdrew the drapery, which covered a panel in the mantelpiece over the fireplace, and read this inscription carved in golden letters in the wood:

" 'In Recognition of
the Blessings of Almighty God
This Home Is Dedicated
To Faith, Hope and Love.' "

"And now we shall light the fire on this hearth and we ask you all to add a twig to it as evidence of your loving interest in this household."

Grandson ..... then lit the fire and the company joined in singing the hymn, "Fling Out the Banner."

At the conclusion of the hymn the little grandsons carried

baskets of twigs among the guests, each of whom took one and added it to the fire on the hearth.

The company then united in singing "Home, Sweet Home."

The grandfather spoke briefly.

Mr. ..... then asked all to break bread in the new home before they left, and during the ensuing social hour refreshments were served, after which the guests gradually departed, leaving their benedictions and good wishes with the families of the newly dedicated home.

## DEDICATION OF A PARSONAGE

Hymn.

Prayer.

Scripture. Gen. 12:6-8; Ps. 127:1; 1 Cor. 16:19. (Recited by four children.)

Reading—"Dedicating a Home."

A beautiful ceremony once took place in the city of Cincinnati at the laying of the corner stone of a new home. A few friends had been invited to join with the family in a simple ritual. In a receptacle in the corner-stone like those provided for churches and public buildings, was placed a tin box containing the names of the family and a record of this event. When the top-stone was placed in position, the mortar was put on, the stones tapped and proclaimed straight and right by the little four-year-old daughter, who ended the ceremony with this prayer: "May this building always be the home of peace, happiness and contentment, and blessed by the Lord. Amen."

The home, as well as the church, is a sacred place and Christian people may well pray this prayer for their homes.

Remarks:

When our far-away ancestor, primitive man, discovered that he needed shelter, he sought it in a cave. Here he sat triumphant over blasts of wind, showers of rain, or downfall of snow.

But, when night came and he had gone to sleep, prowling beasts invaded his domain, ate up his supplies and perhaps injured him or his family. He needed protection. And he laboriously piled up stones across the entrance to the cave, making a wall. And from one wall the step was easy to the

idea of four walls, and with that thought, man was freed from the hillside and could set up his abode on the bank of a stream, or in a glade of the forest. If he needed only a screen from the too fierce rays of the desert sun, a few poles and a piece of camel's hair cloth gave him a tent, and this light dwelling made him a nomad, driving his flocks whither grass and water were found.

Or, if the wanderlust were not strong within him, the poles and some branches of trees made a wattled hut, which later he chinked with mud and thatched with grass, where he dwelt contentedly near some fruit or nut trees, or some scanty fields of grain which he had sown. Perhaps these four walls were made of piled-up stones, or of sun-dried clay bricks. And now man had a house. He wanted privacy and devised bolted doors. He built better and stronger walls for defense against marauders, and he had a fortress. He added buildings, dug wells, built battlemented towers, until he had a castle.

In the meantime his desire for light and warmth and good cheer had produced fire-places and chimneys. His sense of beauty had provided oriel windows, and great halls and long corridors, and adorned them with carvings and costly hangings. Magnificence came to dwell in the castle.

But stone floors are cold; latticed windows are draughty; long corridors are dark; so carpets and rugs and curtains are brought in; furnaces and lamps are invented. Last of all man sought comfort and convenience. These help to turn a house into a home.

But a house is not a home. It takes people to make a home, father, mother, sister and brother. The foundation of society and the church, of civilization and religion, is the home. Our dearest name for God is the one Jesus brought to us, "Our Father." The home was the original "school of religion." Long centuries ago, Jehovah said of Abraham, "For I have known him to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of Jehovah, to do righteousness and justice."

To-day the world is watching all Christian homes to see if they embody such an ideal. And above all, the eyes of the world are upon the typical home of the church, the parsonage. What is the truth about the life there? Sometimes we hear gibes at the minister's son. Is he profligate above other lads? What are the facts and figures? A recent writer says, "When I search the annals of villainy for arch-

scoundrels who were born in parsonages, how many do I discover? One—Aaron Burr."

On the other hand, John and Charles Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, Henry Ward Beecher, Lyman Abbott, were sons of clergymen.

Looking around in the world, we find that Emerson, Lowell, Holmes, Agassiz, Morse (of telegraph fame), Tennyson, Goldsmith and scores of lesser light, were sons of the manse. David Dudley Field was the son of a clergyman. He was a clergyman himself and had four sons. One was a famous lawyer, one was associate justice of the Supreme Court, one a preacher, editor and author, and to the fourth, Cyrus, we are indebted for the Atlantic cable.

One name in twelve in "Who's Who" is that of a minister's son. In an English "National Biography" were 1,270 sons of ministers, 510 sons of lawyers, 350 sons of doctors. He who establishes a parsonage takes considerable responsibility upon himself. Religion in the home "has a practical, working value for this world."

Song—"Home, Sweet Home."

—S. A. Wilson.

## PRAYER AT DEDICATION OF A CHARITY HOME FOR CHILDREN

O thou whose greatest name is Father, who for thy tender love toward mankind didst send thine only begotten Son into the world as a little baby for whom no room was found at the inn, bless, hallow and sanctify, we beseech thee, this home which we dedicate in thy name for little ones who are setting out on the great adventure of living. Fill it with the sweetness of thy Presence, that gentleness and patience and tenderness and love may ever here abide. May those angels who do always behold thy face shelter and protect from harm all who enter here; and may thy blessing rest upon those who minister in thy name to all the little guests.

Bless those whose gifts of money and time and labor have made this home possible, and raise up ever more and more friends to support it through the years to come.

Look with tender compassion upon the mothers of the precious lives which shall sojourn here and comfort and heal their hearts; cover their distresses with the shadow of thy

wings and with thine everlasting arms lift them up into newness of life and hope.

Into homes where there has been loneliness call from this place these little messengers of light that by their innocence and helplessness and yearnings for love, that by their prattle and laughter and wonders of companionship they may revive and renew the springs of happiness.

And grant that all these little wayfarers who come and go may increase in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man and serve their day and generation the better because in thy name we have undertaken this privilege of service.

We ask it all in Jesus' Name, who once lived among us as a little child, who now calls us to enter his kingdom in the spirit of little children, and who now liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.—REV. GEORGE C. STEWART.

## SERVICE OF MORTGAGE-BURNING

For a number of years Grace Presbyterian Church, Rochester, N. Y., had borne the burden of a considerable mortgage. It was decided to make a drive to clear off the encumbrance. A committee of five was appointed to undertake the work. This committee was divided into a Colonel and four Captains. Each Captain was to choose four other members from the congregation, thus forming four squads or "teams" of five members each. These were to vie with one another in reaching the "goal." The congregation was divided in such a way as to give no team an advantage. All pledges were to be paid within three months. Such church organizations as subscribed were to do it in such a way as to not interfere with private pledges of its members.

The amount needed was largely over-subscribed and the mortgage was paid. There was much rejoicing. A greatly increased spirit of coöperation and fraternal fellowship was developed.

### THE ACT OF BURNING

At an early date the mortgage was burned. This was carried out at the regular morning church service. During the

previous week a letter from the Pastor was sent to all the congregation and constituency, giving information of the occasion and urging participation. Members of the Sunday School and other organizations were especially invited. The church was filled to capacity.

Since all, even to the little children, had taken part in paying off the mortgage, it was thought highly desirable that in some way each should have a part in its burning. Wishing to make this as realistic as possible an arrangement was made, seemingly unique and quite original, by which all could help hold the canceled mortgage as it was being burnt. Arrangements being made the day before, a stout cord was run down each aisle of the church. To this cross-strings were fastened, extending the length of the pews. For convenience these cross-strings were wrapped in balls or on little tufts of paper and tied up against the main cords in the aisles in such a way as to not be in the way as members of the gathering congregation were being seated. The cord was extended also around the back end of the auditorium and up through the choir at the front. Across the pulpit platform was extended the cord upon which the canceled mortgage was to hang. This cord was attached to the main one running through the aisles and around the room. In the middle, immediately over the pulpit, a wire had been inserted, so that when the mortgage was being consumed the circle could not be broken by the burning of the cord.

As the moment came for the exercises all the Elders lined up in one aisle, and the Trustees in another. At a given signal they unwound the cross lines and put them into the hands of the people in the pews, so that every individual in the house could have hold of a cord. Those who were to apply the matches came to the platform. The organ played softly. The Pastor lighted a match. The Senior Elder, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, a representative of the other organizations of the church, and an official of the local Presbytery all lighted their matches from the one in the hand of the Pastor. Then all together they held the matches under the paper to be burned, as it hung suspended on the wire, a large pan being beneath to provide safety from any dropping ashes. At the proper moment the organ sounded and the people standing sang with much emotion, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." As the last embers of the burned document turned black the people bowed rev-

erently and joined with the Pastor in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Prayer:

O God, thou who art the Great Head of the Church, and in whom we live and move and have our being, we praise and adore thee for thy gracious care over us as a church and people through all the past years. Thou hast been our help and our salvation. While thou hast not made our burdens light, thou hast done for us even better. Thou hast given us strength to bear them. And now that by thy grace this particular load has been lifted, we bless thee that thou hast so taught and trained us in order that we may joyfully bear even heavier loads in the future—if that be thy purpose, to thy glory and to the church's good.

Bless the labors of these, thy servants, wrought for the forwarding of the interests of this church. Bless to the comfort and inspiration and an increasing sense of worship all who enter this house of devotion. Bless those who conceived and wrought the work and all who offered willingly of their means to accomplish it. Grant that as they have given gladly for thy house on earth they may attain at length unto that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn:

Sermon:

Prayer:

Benediction.

–Service furnished by Rev. William Allen Hallock, Pastor of the church.

## CORNER-STONE LAYING OF A THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

O Lord, who by thy servant Elisha didst bless the sons of the prophets in building their habitations, bless, we beseech thee, this place with thy mercy. May those who are to dwell herein be filled with thy heavenly grace and benediction.

Putting hand on stone:

Almighty and ever blessed God, mercifully be pleased to bless this stone which we are about to place for a foundation in the Name of him who is the tried and precious Stone; and grant that all they who, to the furtherance of this work, shall have faithfully offered to thee of their substance may ever

be preserved both in body and soul. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As the stone is fixed in place:

In the faith of Jesus Christ we place this headstone in the foundation, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, that here true faith, the fear of God, and brotherly love may dwell, and that this place may be set apart to the dwelling of those who shall minister at His altars, and for the honor of the Name of the same, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and abideth forever.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that those for whom we build this house may be so filled with thy Spirit that they may ever accomplish their ministry with a pure heart and a ready will, to the glory of thy Name and the benefit of thy Holy Church. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who livest and abidest forever. Amen.

## PRAYER AT DEDICATION OF A HOSPITAL

Almighty and merciful God, we beseech thy boundless loving-kindness, that as thou didst visit Tobit, Peter's wife's mother, and the centurion's servant, so thou wouldst vouchsafe mercifully to visit this hospital, and to bless it with thy right hand, that thy sick servants abiding in it may attain health of body and soul, or that when any die they may be protected by the guardianship of thine angels, the messengers of thy love. We ask all through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER AT DEDICATION OF A DORMITORY

O Lord God, keeper of Israel, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, bless, we beseech thee, this dormitory of thy servants, and as they rest in this place after their labors keep them from the illusions and deceits of the evil one, that when they awake they may meditate upon thy commandments, and when they sleep they may be guarded by thy protecting help. Save us all, O Lord, watching; guard us sleeping, that we may watch with Christ, and rest in peace. We ask in the name of Christ. Amen.

## PRAYER AT DEDICATION OF A DINING HALL

Almighty and everlasting God, who in thy loving bounty nourisheth thy servants and sustaineth them in this place of bodily refreshment; we beseech thy great goodness that thou wouldst vouchsafe to bless this dining hall, and grant to thy servants that, through thy blessing, they may receive meat and drink with thanksgiving, and at last attain unto eternal joys at thy right hand. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER BLESSING A GUEST-CHAMBER

O Lord, thou hast said, Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. O Lord Jesus Christ, who by thine apostle hast commanded us to use hospitality one to another without grudging, enter into this guest-chamber with us thy disciples, and bless it, that all who sojourn herein may be filled with thy grace, and at the end of their pilgrimage be led into the inner chambers of thy palace to go out thence no more. We ask through Jesus Christ, who livest and abidest for ever more. Amen.

## PRAYER DEDICATING A KITCHEN

O eternal God, before whose face the angels serve, by whose will all things are governed, and who, in thy goodness dost not cease to provide for the wants of human weakness; we humbly beseech thee that thou wouldst pour down upon this kitchen thy blessing, that thy servants ever here abounding in the fullness of thy blessing may praise thee who givest food to all flesh and fillest all things living with plenteousness, O Saviour of the world, who livest and abidest for ever. Amen.

## PRAYER DEDICATING A LIBRARY

O God, we are told in thy Word that every scribe which is instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth out of his treasures things new and old. O God, the Father, bless this library. God, the Son, let thy blessing rest upon it and upon all who come

here for learning and for wisdom. O God, the Holy Ghost, Teacher who leadest all into truth, grant us so to give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine, and so to meditate in thy law, that we may be filled with the knowledge of thy will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER DEDICATING PUBLIC LIBRARY

O God, the fountain of wisdom, bless, we beseech thee, this building now thrown open for the purposes of a Public Library. Stir up, we pray thee, in our people a laudable interest in the work. Deeply sensible of the power of literature to elevate or degrade, may we guard the avenues of our minds from the insidious influences of unwise reading. Especially may our children, by our own example and watchfulness, be saved from the companionship of evil periodicals and books, from all that present false ideals of life, and from all that tends to destroy their innocence, their reverence or their faith. May the Holy Spirit ever direct those who are charged with the grave responsibility of the management of this library. With a vigilance that never relaxes, may they reject all that is offensive to good taste and morals, and introduce that which awakens and encourages what is best in nature, and is clean and pure. Grant that this building, because of the purpose for which it stands, may admonish us that there are other interests besides those that are solely commercial, and that, beyond its material prosperity, our land is favored and blessed in the moral and intellectual enlightenment of its people. To this end may all the uses of this building contribute, and in its own way may it be a constant instrumentality for good in our midst; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATING A GATE WITH PRAYER

O God, thou hast said, The Lord hath made fast the bars of thy gates and hast blessed thy children within. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous enter into it and are glad. O Lord Jesus Christ, who at the entering in of the New Jerusalem didst hallow its twelve gates with the name of jewels, and with the names of thy twelve apostles in their foundations, and who by the mouth of thy Prophet hast said,

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, for he hast made fast the bars of thy gates, and hast blest thy children within thee; we beseech thy mercy that thou wouldst make peace in all the borders of this house, and that thy Word, running very swiftly, may fill us with the flour of wheat, and that the Holy Spirit may defend us, and that the enemy may not prevail to harm us, but that all who may dwell in this house may praise thee in voice, heart, and work, knowing that thou art the great God and our Lord Jesus Christ, and great is thy power, and thy wisdom is infinite. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR NURSES' HOME

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, thou who hast mercifully promised to hear the prayers of thy people who call upon thee; we beseech thee graciously to bless this Nurses' Home which we now dedicate to thy honor and service and for the use of those who minister to the sick. Make it an abode of purity, peace and truth and a place of restfulness, refreshment and of mutual affection and love. Watch over thy servants in their going out and their coming in. Give them all the spirit of consolation, of gentleness, of faithfulness, of spiritual purpose and ministry, and direct their footsteps ever in the way of thy commandments. We ask through Him who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

(Suitable selections of Scripture for lessons and responsive reading can easily be made, from the Psalms, from Christ's miracles of healing or from the parables, such as that of the Good Samaritan.)

### PRAYER

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who art the author of life, of health, of safety; look down with thy favor and hallow with thy presence and benediction this Memorial Hospital; that so through thy grace may be promoted thine own glory and the spiritual and temporal welfare of men and women and little children. Preserve us from doubt and impatience, from discouragement and discord and grant that all

may work together as ministers in the healing art. Grant that the Good Physician may here minister at every pillow, and touch with blessed healing every sick and suffering soul.

Grant, O Lord, to the trustees, managers and officers of this hospital full measures of wisdom, prudence and grace to order and direct its affairs in accordance with thy will. Bless the physicians and the nurses, and all the members of this household, that they may duly execute their several duties in thy fear and love, and seek only thy honor and glory, who didst take our infirmities and bear our sicknesses, healing all sinning and suffering humanity with thy most precious blood. All of which we ask in the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

O Lord and Father, who hast given to man every good and perfect gift, we pray thee to so guide those who shall teach and learn in this institution that they may do their duty with all their might and with all their heart and gladly consecrate their gifts to thee and thy service. May teachers and learners alike rejoice in their mastery over the great gifts of music and song and contribute many happy hours to many people in the various stations in life, so that in every way the thoughts of both musicians and listeners may be turned in thankfulness and praise to thee. Bless every effort that is made in this community to encourage and maintain a high and ennobling order of musical culture. This we ask in the Name of him who came to make our life a song and a joy forever, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BUILDING

O Lord, our heavenly Father, who dost bring to thy people health and cure, and dost reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth, vouchsafe to be present with us who are here gathered together in humility and readiness of mind to dedicate this building to the honor of thy great Name, to the memory of thy servant whose name it bears, for the advancement of sound learning and brotherly love, and for the relief of such as suffer pain and weakness. We thank thee, gracious Father, for all the means which thou hast provided to

comfort and heal the sick, for the skill of mind and of hand which thou dost give, for the gentleness and patience and bravery which thou dost put into the hearts of those who care for the suffering, and for the gracious labors and generous gifts of all who provide for such as are in want and trouble. Mercifully accept the labors of those who shall here study, or consult, or provide concerning the sick; and reward them abundantly for all the good they shall design or do, opening to them new treasures of thy wisdom and thy providence, and blessing them that they may increase in knowledge and in the ability and will to serve others. And give the fullness of thy blessing to all who shall receive their care, that they may know thy love and find thy healing power both in the body and in the spirit. We confess, O Lord, that we are not worthy to offer anything to thee, yet we pray thee graciously to accept the service of our hearts and hands, and to bless it with such success as may tend most to thy glory and to the furtherance of our happiness, both temporal and eternal. And we bless thy holy Name, O Lord, for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Direct us, we pray, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DEDICATION OF A LAW SCHOOL

(Appropriate also for Commencement at a law school or college, or when conducting a service at such.)

Almighty Father, from whom all good things do come; grant, we beseech thee, thy blessing to this Institution set apart for the study of the law as it pertains to material interests. May those who engage in such studies and investigations be moved to promote wise and just laws that shall improve the conditions of society, and that shall make the transactions of man with man liberal, unselfish and brotherly. Help them to set their faces and influence against all violated trusts, unhallowed dealings and ignorant and perverse legislation. Give them all grace to withstand every wrong and to be the

exponents in the community of truth, justice and righteousness.

Grant, we pray thee, that those who give themselves to the study of earthly law may constantly acknowledge the supremacy of thy divine justice, so that in all causes they may seek truth and not victory, and that their own lives may be purified by the law of thy Holy Spirit, and the remembrance of that strict account which they must one day give of every thought, word and deed before thy judgment seat.

And O thou who art the fountain of wisdom and justice, whose bosom is the seat of that law that speaks harmony to the world; make all, we beseech thee, whose business is the study of the law, to labor, that throughout the Commonwealth its voice may be heard so that the very least may feel its care, and the greatest be not exempt from its power. We implore thy blessing upon all in legislative, judicial and executive authority, that they may have grace, wisdom and understanding, so to discharge their duties as most effectually to promote thy glory, the interests of true religion and virtue, and the peace and good order and welfare of this state and nation. Have mercy on this our land, in which our fathers have lived and died, and into the keeping of which their bodies have been committed. Vouchsafe to cleanse it more and more from all that is displeasing to thee, and grant that it may never cease to be one of the tranquil abodes of thy Church, and fruitful to thee in devoted saints. Endue all who shall make or administer its laws with wise hearts and a true regard for it, that so it may be honored among the nations and permitted to do great things for thee, the Supreme Ruler of all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Part IV: CEREMONIES FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

WEDDINGS, FUNERALS, COMMUNION, BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, ADMISSION OF ELDERS, DEACONS, DEACONESSES, INSTALLATION OF BIBLE SCHOOL OFFICERS, SERVICE FOR THOSE AT SEA, ADOPTION OF CHILDREN, SENDING OUT MISSIONARIES, ETC.

# Part IV: CEREMONIES FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

## WEDDING CEREMONY (1)

According to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and as employed by ministers in Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregational and many other denominations.

At the day and time appointed for Solemnization of Matrimony, the persons to be married shall come into the body of the church, or shall be ready in some proper house, with their friends and neighbors; and there, standing together, the man on the right hand, and the woman on the left, the minister shall say:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God and in the face of this company, to join together this Man and this Woman in holy Matrimony; which is commended of Saint Paul to be honorable among all men: and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. If any man can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold his peace.

And also speaking unto the Persons who are to be married, he shall say:

I require and charge you both, as ye will answer at the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment, why ye may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, ye do now confess it. For be ye well assured, that if any persons are joined together otherwise than as God's Word doth allow, their marriage is not lawful.

The Minister, if he shall have reason to doubt of the lawfulness of the proposed Marriage, may demand sufficient surety for his indemnification; but if no impediment shall be alleged, or suspected, the Minister shall say to the Man:

M. Wilt thou have this Woman to thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

The Man shall answer:

I will.

Then shall the Minister say unto the Woman:

N. Wilt thou have this Man to thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou serve him, love, honor, and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

The Woman shall answer:

I will.

Then shall the Minister say:

Who giveth this Woman to be married to this Man?

Then shall they give their troth to each other in this manner: The Minister, receiving the Woman at her father's or friend's hands shall cause the Man with his right hand to take the Woman by her right hand, and to say after him as followeth:

I, M., take thee, N., to my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

Then shall they loose their hands; and the Woman, with her right hand taking the Man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the Minister:

I, N., take thee, M., to my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and hereto I give thee my troth.

Then shall they again loose their hands; and the Man shall give unto the Woman a Ring. And the Minister, taking the Ring, shall deliver it unto the Man, to put it upon the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand. And taught by the Minister, shall say:

With this Ring I thee wed, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then the Man, leaving the Ring upon the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand, the Minister shall say:

Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life; Send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy Name; that, as Isaac and Rebecca lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made (whereof this Ring given and received is a token and pledge), and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the Minister join their right hands together, and say:

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

Then shall the Minister speak unto the company:

Forasmuch as M. and N. have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth, each to the other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving a Ring, and by joining hands; I pronounce that they are Man and Wife, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

And the Minister shall add this blessing:

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. Amen.

## MARRIAGE CEREMONY (2)

Addressing the Assembled Company:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in sight of God, and in the face of this company, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is commended of Saint Paul to be honorable among all men: and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. If any man can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

Addressing the Persons who are to be married:

In token of your careful consideration of the obligations of marriage, and of your free, deliberate, and lawful choice of each other as partners for life, you will now please join your right hands.

Addressing the Man:

Do you, M. . . . ., take this woman whose hand you now clasp to be your wedded wife, and do you promise in the presence of God and these witnesses (this company) to be

to her a faithful and loving husband, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and in adversity, and through every change and condition of life until death shall you part?

Here shall the Man answer:

I do.

Addressing the Woman:

And do you, N. . . . ., take this man whose hand you now clasp to be your wedded husband, and do you promise in the presence of God and these witnesses (this company) to be to him a faithful and loving wife, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and in adversity, and through every change and condition of life until death shall you part?

Here shall the Woman answer:

I do.

Addressing the Man:

What pledge do you give that you will keep this covenant and perform these vows?

The Bridegroom here offers the ring, and the Minister, without taking it from him, guides his hand to place the ring on the fourth finger of the Bride's left hand. While the ring is being placed the Minister says:

Do you give this ring as a pledge that you will keep this covenant and perform these vows?

Here shall the Man answer:

I do.

Addressing the Woman:

And do you receive this ring as a pledge that you will keep this covenant and perform these vows?

Here shall the Woman answer:

I do.

Addressing both the Man and the Woman:

Then, in accordance with your solemn promises made to each other in the presence of God and of these witnesses (this company), and, having signified and sealed the same by the giving and the receiving of a ring, now, therefore, by my authority as a Minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, I do pronounce you husband and wife; one in the eye of the law; one in all your temporal interests and destinies; one in all the events and changes of life, and in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Whom, therefore, God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

Prayer:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, thou who art the Giver of every good and perfect gift, thou by whom marriage was ordained, bless, we pray thee, these, thy servants, entering into this sacred and happy relation. And thou, O blessed Holy Spirit, who art the guide of thy people in the choices of life, bless them evermore with thy presence and the sense of thine abounding love. And to thee, O Christ, our Saviour, who wert present at the marriage in Cana of Galilee, sanctifying by thy presence and approval, to thee do we commend them, and pray for thy richest benediction upon them. Attend them, O thou Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, all along the pathway of life, and fill them with the riches of thy grace. May their lives and health and strength be very precious in thy sight. May they have just as much of the good things of this life as they can bear and still keep humble and lowly of heart in thy sight and in the sight of men. Unite their hearts and lives in all the grace and true affection of a happy marriage. May they be able to increase each other's joys, lighten each other's burdens, and help each other in the great endeavor to live useful and blessed lives. And may they not only be knit together in love to each other, but also in love to thee, so that neither in this life nor the life to come shall they ever know separation. Bless with them also the dear friends whom they love, and all who love them, and hear their mutual good wishes, interpreting them as prayers to thee for thy blessing upon them. Attend them all along the pathway of life; guide their steps in the ways of righteousness, for thy

name's sake; and when thou hast finished thy good purposes with them, and with us all in this life, bring us together into the heavenly and delightful Kingdom at thy right hand on high; all of which we ask in the name of Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Benediction:

During this Benediction the Husband and Wife may remain standing, with bowed heads, or they may kneel.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen. —H.

## PRAYER BEFORE THE WEDDING

Our Father who art in heaven, be pleased in thy great mercy, to look upon us, be present with us, and bless us in this sacred ceremony. Graciously regard thy servants, about to enter into this solemn contract as the ordinance of God. Make them duly sensible of the holy vows and responsibilities they are taking upon themselves. May they remember that thou, God, seest them. May thy grace make their motives pure, their hearts sincere, their purposes of faithfulness to each other and to thee deep and abiding. Prepare their hearts to receive and take these vows, not blindly nor carelessly, but in the love and the fear of God. Give them a holy and lasting sense of their dependence upon thee for thy blessing. Evermore, daily, constantly and together, may they seek thy blessing, and do thou in tender mercy now and evermore bestow it upon them, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

## PRAYER AT A WEDDING

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we thank thee for the marriage institution: Thou hast seen from the beginning that it was not good for man to be alone, but thou hast found a helpmate, a companion for him.

Bless this couple who are now united in heart and in hand; as they have begun this new and untried life hand in hand may

they be permitted in thy good Providence, to go hand in hand to the end of it.

Give them temporal prosperity and spiritual blessings, and may the love which has drawn them together this day, continue to draw them closer and closer to each other and closer to thee as the years go by, and when at length they have faithfully climbed the hill of life and their feet shall stand in the valley of peace, may they be permitted to go home to the marriage supper of the Lamb.—Rev. Peter Lindsay, D.D.

## A WEDDING PRAYER

We invoke thy gentlest blessings, our Father, on all true lovers. We praise thee for the great longing that draws the soul of man and maid together and bids them leave all the dear bonds of the past to cleave to one another. We thank thee for the revealing power of love which divines in the one beloved the mystic beauty and glory of humanity. We thank thee for the transfiguring power of love which ripens and ennobles our nature, calling forth the hidden stores of tenderness and strength and overcoming the selfishness of youth by the passion of self-surrender.

We pray thee to make their love strong, holy, and deathless, that no misunderstandings may fray the bond, and no gray disenchantment of the years may have power to quench the heavenly light that now glows in them. May they early gain wisdom to discern the true values of life, and may no tyranny of fashion and no glamour of cheaper joys filch from them the wholesome peace and inward satisfaction which only loyal love can give.

Grant them with sober eyes to look beyond these sweet days of friendship to the generations yet to come, and to realize that the home for which they long will be part of the sacred tissue of the body of humanity in which thou art to dwell, that so they may reverence themselves and drink the cup of joy with awe.—Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch.

## PRAYER AT A WEDDING

Let us pray: O God, by whom marriage was ordained; O Christ, Son of God, by whose presence this service was adorned and rendered forever sacred; O Holy Ghost, the Lord, the Giver of true blessedness, look down upon these,

thy servants, and unite their hearts and lives in all the grace and true affection of a happy marriage. As Isaac and Rebecca lived faithfully together, so may they surely perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made. May their mutual love, now plighted, never know doubt nor change. Do thou bless them in each other, and crown their lives with thy loving-kindness and tender mercies. And thou, O Lord, we beseech thee, enable them so to live together in this life, that in the world to come they may have life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen. —Rev. George Francis Greene, D.D.

## PRAYER AT A WEDDING

O God, crown this union with the richest of thy blessings. Enable thy servants to perform all these vows which they have gladly taken unto themselves. Thou knowest the wealth of affection which they bestow upon each other. Thou understandeth how desirous each is to make the other happy. Bless thy servant, the husband, in all his plans and purposes for the comfort and happiness of the bride. Bless thine handmaiden, the bride, in all her efforts to make their home the brightest, sweetest spot in all the earth in the eyes of the husband. May that home be a place where daily the Bible shall be read and the voice of prayer shall be heard, and from which influences shall go out which shall strengthen the cause of truth and righteousness. Make thy servants true and faithful to each other in all the experiences which await them. If it please thee, grant unto them health and long life and so much of temporal prosperity as shall be for their highest good. Let thy blessings be upon each member of each home here represented. Enable us, and all who are dear to us, to do thy holy will from day to day. Faithful to the end of the earthly life may we all at last sit down at the marriage supper of the Lamb on high. And we will give the praise and the glory to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen.—Rev. Charles P. Coit, D. D.

## THE GOLDEN WEDDING

Ministers are often called upon to officiate or take part in some way at golden weddings. The following little poem by Mrs. Belle Sapp is appropriate for use at such a time:

Ring out ye wedding bells, ring out,
For there is joy to-day;
A wedding fifty years ago
Ye celebrate this day.
Friends, pause awhile, your blessings count—
So meditate and pray.

May all the summer's fragrance
And all the winter's cheer
And all the joys of life be lived
In this one day so dear;
Bring memories sweet, while time is kind,
With precious loved ones here.

They have a father's blessing;
They have a mother's prayer,
To follow them from day to day,
With kindly counsel on the way;
Oh, these are treasures rare!

Yes, ring the wedding bells to-day,
And let them joyous ring
And drive all sadness far away—
For life is on the wing.
Oft-times the summer's flowering
Is sweeter than the spring.

## PRAYER AT GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who didst institute the holy estate of matrimony for the mutual help and comfort of thy children; we thank thee that thou hast preserved these, thy servants, through fifty years of married life until this hour. We praise thee for thy goodness to them in making their union one of love, peace and happiness, and that through thy grace they have been able to keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made. Protect and prosper them, we beseech thee, through the years to come. Multiply thy blessings

upon them. May they abound in love and bear together willingly the burdens of life. Encourage and sustain them in all godly living, and may their home continue to be a place of prayer, consecration and joy. Let thy benediction rest upon them to their life's end, and finally give them a joyful entrance into thy blessed kingdom: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## GENERAL FUNERAL SERVICE

*Salutations:*

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die.—John 11:25, 26.

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.—Job 19:25-27.

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord.—1 Tim. 6:7; Job 1:21.

*Scripture Reading:*

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord. Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged: Oh, bring thou me out of my distresses. Look upon mine affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins.

O God, my soul is cast down within me: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice; have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek. Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger; thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies

will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.

For thy Maker is thy husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel: the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.

The Lord is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he also will hear their cry, and will save them. For he said, Surely they are my people. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

The Lord will command his loving-kindness in the day-time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life. He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. I was brought low, and he helped me.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance and my God.

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

Now if Christ rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen; and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are

perished. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

For if Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Now this I say brethren: that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

And I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me,

These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sit-

teth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb, which is in the midst of the throne, shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

(Before this benediction the 23rd Psalm may be read if desired.)

Prayer:

Almighty and most merciful God, the consolation of the sorrowful and support of the weary, who dost not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men; look down in thy tender love and pity, we beseech thee, upon thy servants, this bereaved household, whose joy is turned into mourning; and according to the multitude of thy mercies be pleased to uphold, strengthen and comfort them, that they may not faint under thy Fatherly chastening, but find in thee their strength and refuge; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Prayer at the Grave:*

Almighty God, who by the death of thy Son, Jesus Christ, hast destroyed death; by his rest in the tomb hast sanctified the graves of the saints; and by thy glorious resurrection hast brought life and immortality to light, so that all who die in him abide in hope as to their bodies and in joy as to their souls; receive, we beseech thee, our unfeigned thanks for

that victory over death and the grave which he has obtained for us and for all who sleep in him; and keep us who are still in the body in everlasting fellowship with all that wait for thee on earth and with all that are around thee in heaven, in union with him who is the Resurrection and the Life; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

*Commitment:*

(While the earth is being cast upon the body by some standing by, the minister shall say:)

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in his wise Providence, to take out of this world the soul of our deceased brother (sister) we commit his (her) body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life in the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose second coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in him shall be changed, and made like unto his own glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

*Benediction:*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all. Amen.

[Note: In the case of burial in a vault or tomb the words, "this receptacle for the dead," may be substituted for "earth" or "ground."

Note: In the case of cremation the words "his (her) body in the ground; earth to earth," may be omitted and "his (or her) sacred ashes to this vault" used instead. Or one can say, "his (her) body to this purifying flame; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." Or omit the words "earth to earth."]

## PRAYER AT A FUNERAL

Almighty and Everlasting God! we thine unworthy servants beseech thee for Christ's sake to have mercy upon us.

From the borders of the grave we cry unto thee; for Christ's sake have mercy upon us. It hath pleased thee to call out of this world the soul of our departed friend, whose body we have now brought for burial. We humbly entreat thee that we may with true penitence of heart receive the warning of thy providence, and consider that by reason of our guilt it is appointed unto us to die, and that in a moment when we think not we may appear before thee. Spare us, O Lord, O most pitiful and long-suffering Lord God, spare us a little longer, that we may take refuge in Christ, abiding in him, that when he shall appear we may have confidence, and not be ashamed at his coming. O Merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, suffer none of us to live without hope; but constrain us mightily by thy love: that we, being renewed by thy grace, and accepted through Christ's intercession, may walk before thee in newness of life, and praise thee for ever among the redeemed in heaven, where there shall be no more death, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away: which we implore for the sake of him who has taught us to say, "Our Father," etc. Amen.

## INVOCATION AT A FUNERAL

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men. For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth. For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled. Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be four score years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Return,

O Lord! how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants. Oh, satisfy us early with thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us: yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER AT A FUNERAL

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies can not be numbered: Make us, we beseech thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let thy Holy Spirit lead us through this vale of misery, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives: that when we shall have served thee in our generation we may be gathered unto our fathers having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of the Christian Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a reasonable religious and holy hope, in favor with thee, our God, and in perfect charity with the world: all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## HOME PRAYER AT A FUNERAL

O God, Merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath said, Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted: Under the shadow of thy judgments we come to thee, and acknowledge thee to be the Lord alone. Thou hast entered this house with thy chastenings: Oh! be thou nigh in thy tender compassion to these afflicted ones. Bless thy sorrowing servants with thy consolations, which are neither few nor small. Convert them wholly to thyself, and fill their bleeding hearts with thy love. Make the night of their grief to be light by thy grace. Deliver us thy servants, we pray thee, from the bondage of our sins, that we may be free from fear of death, and be ready at thy coming. Yea, Lord! for Christ's sake, sanctify us by thy Holy Spirit, that whether we live, we may live unto the Lord, or whether we die, we may die unto the Lord; whether we live or die, may we be the Lord's. Amen.

## PRAYER AT THE FUNERAL OF A MINISTER

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, thou art indeed our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. To thee we come in this our time of need. Here in thy house we would unitedly seek thy grace and consolation. Let every heart feel thy divine presence and vibrate to thy tender touch. Our hearts cry out for thee. Soothe and quicken and satisfy us, O thou who art indeed our solace, our support and our satisfaction. Help us to remember that thou alone art the author and disposer of our life, from whom our spirits have come, and to whom they shall return. Help us to acknowledge thy sovereign power and right both to give and to take away, as seemeth good in thy sight. And, O thou who art full of divine mercy, who art the consolation of the sorrowful, the support of the weary, and who dost not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men, look down in thy tender love and pity, we beseech thee, upon thy bereaved servants whose joy is turned into mourning. While they mourn may they not murmur, nor faint under thy rod. Help us all with gratitude to call to remembrance thine abundant grace manifested toward thy servant, our departed brother and friend. For all thy goodness that withheld not his portion in the joys of this earthly life, and for thy guiding hand along the way of his pilgrimage, we give thee thanks and praise. Especially we bless thee for thy grace that kindled in his heart the love of thy dear Name, for the grace that also enabled him to become so eminently useful as a minister of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ—for the grace that enabled him to fight the good fight, to endure even unto the end and to obtain the victory; yea, to become more than conquerer through him that loveth us, we bless thee. And now grant, O our Father, that we who rejoice in the triumph of thy servant may also profit by his example and in thine own good time may enter into the inheritance which is incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.—H.

## PRAYER AT MEMORIAL OF A COLLEGE PROFESSOR

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst

formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. Thou turnest man to destruction, and sayest, Return, ye children of men. For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. So teach us to number our days that we may get us a heart of wisdom. And establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands, establish thou it.

O God, almighty, everlasting, how gracious a fact it is that amidst the uncertainties of life we may rest in thee! Thou art ever round about thy people. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without our Father. There are no accidents in the life of him who walks with God. Help us, O God, to face each day with this confidence in our hearts. Help us to be like our Master, Jesus, who went to the daily task and to the last great issue with firm confidence in thee.

We thank thee, O God, that thou didst set the solitary in families, that thou hast given us life's great fellowships. We thank thee for those men and women who, having caught the spirit of God, have walked with us betimes. We thank thee for him in whose honor we hold this service to-night. We thank thee for his aspiring spirit, which went ever in quest of thee, and which ever incited those who walked with him to a deeper and more constant purpose in this quest. O God, we thank thee for the illumination of his just and patient spirit upon the meaning of life, for he has become to us who knew him as comrade, teacher and friend, one of life's interpreters. We thank thee, our Father, for his faithfulness to his task, for his devotion, his courage, his intellectual clarity, and that he belonged to the same fellowship of service into which thou hast called us.

Although we mourn him to-night, we take comfort in his faith. Though we lose him from our midst, his memory will be not only sacred to us who have known him, but through the years to come a benediction to all who study in these halls. We pray that the mantle of his scholarship, of his Christianity, of his courtesy and devotion may fall upon every one of us, that in the days to come we may carry forward and exalt the noble traditions of this institution and may spread the faith of Jesus in that same spirit.

Thus, our Father, we come to-night in this service, grateful for this life which thou didst give us through the years, for its inspirations and its ministries. And we offer thee our

praise that such lives do not end with the passing; we thank thee for our confidence that those who build upon such a foundation can never pass beyond thy ken.

For the life in whose memory we gather, and for our hope in thee which we exultantly voice together at this hour, we give thee thanks, our Father. In Jesus' Name. Amen.—Rev. Professor Henry Burke Robins.

## SERVICE FOR FUNERAL OF AN INFANT OR LITTLE CHILD

*Salutations:*

I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.—John 11:25, 26.

But I would not have you be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.—1 Thess. 4:13,14.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.—John 14:1-3.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.—Rev. 21:4.

*Scripture Reading:*

Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the

lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. Even so, it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

And Jesus called a little child unto him and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily, I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name, receiveth me.

And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in and lay all night upon the earth. And it came to pass on the seventh day that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice; how will he then vex himself if we tell him the child is dead!

But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the Lord, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? Thou didst fast and weep for the child while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.

And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

Now this I say brethren; that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb, which is in the midst of the throne, shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

*Prayer:*

O most compassionate and loving Saviour, who, when on earth didst gather the little children into thine arms and put thy holy hands upon them and bless them, we commit to thee this little child which our heavenly Father hath now taken away. Be thou the tender Shepherd of this lamb. Carry it in thy bosom into the green pastures and beside the still waters of thy paradise among the happy company of the glorified children, and at the last day restore it to these yearning hearts, when the mystery of thy providence shall be unveiled from all faces. Hear us, O God, for Jesus our dear Redeemer's sake, to whom, with thee O Father, and the ever blessed Spirit, the Comforter, be all praise and glory, world without end. Amen. —PROFESSOR S. M. HOPKINS' LITURGY.

*Committal:*

"And Jesus said, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God."

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in his wise providence, to take out of the world the soul of this little one, we therefore commit his (or her) body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust: looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose second coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead, and the corruptible bodies of those that sleep in him shall be changed and made like unto his own glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

*Benediction:*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all. Amen.

## CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

(When the time is come for administration, the Minister shall say:)

Hear the words of the institution of this holy Supper of our Lord, as given by revelation to his apostle Paul, and recorded in the eleventh chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians:

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus, the same night on which he was betrayed, took bread: and when he had given thanks he brake it and said, Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also, he took the cup when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

*Invitation:*

It is my high privilege to invite, in the name of the Lord Jesus, to his holy table all such as, sensible of their lost and helpless state of sin, depend upon the atonement of Christ for pardon and acceptance with God; and all who desire to renounce their sins and are determined to lead a holy and godly life; especially all who are members of the Church of Christ confessing him in the way of his appointment. We have one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, and, blessed be God, one Lord's table.

*Hymn:*

The congregation shall sing an appropriate sacramental hymn, such as "Beneath the cross of Jesus," "O bread to pilgrims given," "My God, and is thy table spread," or "According to thy gracious word."

*Prayer of Consecration:* ("Setting the elements apart.")

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who once offered up of himself, by himself, upon the cross, once for all, whom we commemorate before thee; we beseech thee to accept this our spiritual oblation of all possible praise for the same. And here we offer and present, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice, acceptable unto thee through Jesus Christ thy Son:

And we most humbly beseech thee, Father of all mercies and God of all comfort, to vouchsafe thy gracious presence,

and the effectual working of thy Spirit in us, and so to sanctify these elements both of Bread and Wine, and to bless thine own Ordinance that we may receive by faith Christ crucified for us, and so feed upon him, that he may be one with us and we with him; that he may live in us, and we in him who hath loved us and given himself for us: Even Jesus our Lord; to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be praise and power, might, majesty, and dominion, both now and evermore. Amen.

*Administration of the Bread:*

The bread and wine being thus set apart by prayer and thanksgiving, the Minister is to take the bread and break it in the view of the people, saying: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the same night in which he was betrayed, having taken bread and blessed it, and broken it, gave it to his disciples; as I, ministering in his name, give this bread unto you, saying (here the bread is to be distributed), Take, eat: this is my body which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me.

(If for any reason it is thought inexpedient to leave the communicants to their own silent meditations through the whole time occupied by the distribution of the elements, the Minister should read slowly such Scripture verses as will be found following this Order.)

*Administration of the Wine:* (The Minister shall say:)

After the same manner our Saviour also took the cup; and having given thanks, as hath been done in his name, he gave it to his disciples, saying (while the Minister is repeating these words let him give the cup): This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for many for the remission of sins: drink ye all of it.

(If deemed desirable, the Minister, during the distribution of the cup, may slowly read such Scripture verses as will be found following this Order.)

*Thanksgiving Prayer:*

(Then the Minister shall offer a solemn prayer of thanksgiving, of consecration, of intercession for absent communicants, for baptized children and for the church universal.)

O Almighty merciful God and Father, with our whole hearts we thank thee that thou hast of thy boundless mercy

given us thine only begotten Son to be our Mediator, and the sacrifice for our sins, and our meat and drink unto life eternal. We bless thee that thou givest us lively faith, whereby we are made partakers of such, thy benefits: and hast been pleased that thy beloved Son Jesus Christ should ordain his holy Supper for the confirmation of the same. Grant then, we beseech thee, O faithful God and Father, that, through the working of thy Holy Spirit, this remembrance made of our Lord Jesus Christ and this showing forth of his death may tend to the daily increase of our faith and saving fellowship with him: unto whom, as unto thee, O Father! and the Holy Ghost, be honor and praise for ever. Amen.

*Hymn:*

(Such as "All hail the power of Jesus' name," "O Jesus, I have promised," etc.)

*Benediction:*

Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will; working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## SENTENCES THAT MAY BE REPEATED BY THE MINISTER AT INTERVALS OF SILENCE DURING PARTICIPATION IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

*The Bread:*

"The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ."

"I am the bread of life, saith Jesus: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

"The Son of man came to give his life a ransom for many."

"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted; yet he opened not his mouth."

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows."

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

"Come unto him, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and he will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him: for he is meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest for your souls."

"And now, little children, abide in him; that when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed at his coming."

*The Wine:*

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is the communion of the blood of Christ."

"I am the Vine, saith Jesus, ye are the branches; abide in me and I in you."

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends: ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."

"We know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

"It is a faithful saying, If we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: if we suffer, we shall also reign with him."

"Fear not, little flock; it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

"Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of men, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

"Yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

## INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES AT COMMUNION SERVICE

1. What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people.

2. I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord; that I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honor dwelleth.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

3. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? and who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

4. If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

5. Jesus said, I am the Bread of Life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.

6. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

### MORNING

1. Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

2. Thus saith the Lord unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live.

Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall

come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

3. Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee.

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

4. We will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy; and in thy fear will we worship toward thy holy temple.

Let the words of our mouth, and the meditation of our heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

### EVENING

1. Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge, and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

2. Lord, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee.

Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

3. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

4. Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God?

He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

## PRAYER ON COMING TO THE COMMUNION TABLE

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who admittest thy people into such wonderful communion that, partaking of the

body and blood of thy dear Son, they should dwell in him, and he in them; we unworthy sinners, approaching thy presence, and beholding thy glory, do abhor ourselves, and repent in dust and ashes. We have grievously sinned against thee in thought, in word, and in deed. We have broken our past vows, we have dishonored thy holy name, and are unworthy of the least of all thy mercies.

Yet now, most gracious Father, have mercy upon us; for the sake of Jesus Christ forgive us all our sins; purify us from all uncleanness in spirit and in flesh; enable us heartily to forgive others as we beseech thee to forgive us; and grant that we may hereafter serve thee in newness of life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

## PRAYER ON COMING TO THE COMMUNION TABLE

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For all thy bounties known to us, for all unknown, we give thee thanks; but chiefly that when through disobedience we had fallen from thee, thou didst not suffer us to depart from thee for ever, but hast ransomed us from eternal death and given us the joyful hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ thy Son; who came down from heaven in perfect love, and became man for us men, and for our salvation.

Not as we ought, but as we are able, we bless thee for his holy incarnation; for his life on earth; for his precious sufferings and death upon the cross; for his resurrection from the dead; and for his glorious ascension to thy right hand.

We bless thee for the giving of the Holy Ghost; for the sacraments and ordinances of the Church; for the great hope of everlasting life, and of an eternal weight of glory.

Thee, mighty God, heavenly King, we magnify and praise. With angels and archangels, and all the hosts of heaven, we worship and adore thy glorious name, joining in the everlasting hymn of the cherubim and seraphim, singing unto thee:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to

vouchsafe unto us thy gracious presence, and so to sanctify with thy Word and Spirit these, thine own gifts of bread and wine which we set before thee, that the bread which we break may be to us the communion of the body of Christ and the cup of blessing which we bless the communion of the blood of Christ.

And we most humbly beseech thee to receive this memorial of the most blessed sacrifice of thy Son which he hath commanded us to make until he come; in union with whom we offer unto thee our souls and our bodies, and present to thee our prayers, entreating thee to grant unto us, and unto all thy people, through the mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ, the remission of sins, and all other benefits of his passion. Amen.

## CONSECRATING PRAYER AT LORD'S SUPPER

Lord God! Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! thou who art infinite goodness, and perfect love! We bring to thee the sacrifice of our praise, and the offering of our thanks for thine inestimable gift in sending thy Son into the world; for delivering him up to die for us all; and for inviting us to participate in the fruits of his atonement at the Table of this holy feast. Lord! what are we to receive such priceless benefits at thy hand? or how shall we worthily show forth our gratitude to thee? The heavens and the earth, O Lord! are full of the tokens of thy bounty: but especially dost thou manifest thy love in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Accept, O Lord our God! the homage of thine adoring people. And grant that we, partaking of this holy Sacrament, to which we are welcomed by thy grace, may now join ourselves by the bonds of living faith and true holiness to our Saviour: so that we may not henceforth live unto ourselves, but that he may live in us, and lead us to that blessed life that shall have no end.

Father of Mercies! who didst not spare thine only begotten Son, but deliverest him to death for us all; and hast brought us into fellowship with him, that we might obtain everlasting life: We, thy servants, with a lively sense of thy precious gift, do now consecrate ourselves entirely unto thee. We present to thee our bodies and our souls in a living and holy sacrifice. And since thou hast loved us so much, we acknowledge ourselves constrained to love one another. Impress our

hearts, O God! with these holy inclinations: that so celebrating the remembrance of thy dear Son, our faith may grow strong, our charity increase, our sanctification advance and be made complete, until we be meet for the inheritance of thy saints in light everlasting. Hear us, O Father of Mercies! we ask all in the Name of thy well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: unto whom, as unto thee, and the Holy Ghost, one God, be honor, praise, and glory, now, henceforth, and for ever. Amen.

## CONSECRATING PRAYER AT LORD'S SUPPER

O most merciful God and Father! we beseech thee that in this Supper by which we celebrate the glorious remembrance of the bitter death of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ, thou wilt so work in our hearts by thy Holy Spirit, that with true confidence we may more and more give ourselves up unto thy Son Jesus Christ; that our burdened and fainting hearts may, through the power of the Holy Ghost, be fed and comforted with his true body and blood, yea, with him, true God and man, that only heavenly Bread. And may we no longer live in our sins, but he in us and we in him; and thus be true partakers of the new and everlasting covenant of grace. May we not doubt that thou wilt for ever be our gracious Father, never more imputing our sins unto us; and providing us, as thy beloved children and heirs, with all things necessary as well for the body as the soul. Grant us also thy grace, that we may cheerfully take upon us our cross, deny ourselves, confess our Saviour, and in all tribulations with uplifted heads expect our Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, where he will make our mortal bodies like unto his most glorious body, and take us to be for ever with himself. "Our Father," etc. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING PRAYER AT THE LORD'S SUPPER

Most Glorious God, how wonderful thy power and wisdom, thy holiness and justice, thy love and mercy in this work of redemption by the incarnation, life, death, resurrection, intercession, and dominion of thy Son! No wisdom or power in heaven or earth could have delivered us but thine. The angels desire to look into this mystery: the heavenly host do

celebrate it with praises, saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. The whole creation shall proclaim thy praises: Blessing, honor, glory, and power be unto him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and honor, and glory: for he hath redeemed us to God by his blood, and made us kings and priests unto our God. And hast thou indeed forgiven us so great a debt by so precious a ransom? Wilt thou indeed give us to reign with Christ in glory and see thy face, and love thee, and be loved of thee for ever? Yea, Lord! Thou hast forgiven us, and wilt glorify us; for thou art faithful that hast promised. Oh, set our affections on the things above: let our conversation be in heaven, from whence we expect our Saviour to come and change us into the likeness of his glory. Then will we perfectly praise and worthily magnify thee for ever, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: to whom be glory. Amen.

## PRAYER FOLLOWING THE COMMUNION

Almighty and ever-living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us, and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people: and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and in earth is named, we, thy children, gathered around thy holy table, remember before thee all with whom we have part in the communion of thy saints; and we beseech thee, for the sake of that sacrifice which we have now commemorated, that thou wouldst receive the intercessions which we offer unto thy divine majesty.

Look down in mercy, we beseech thee, on thy Church militant here upon earth.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, unto all who bear office in thy Church, that they may fulfill their several ministries in thy fear, and in purity of heart; and to all thy people, that they may be holy and obedient, and may come behind in no gift, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## SERVICE FOR INFANT BAPTISM

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Dearly beloved, attend to the words of the institution of the holy sacrament of baptism, as delivered by our Lord and Saviour to his disciples after his resurrection and before his ascension to the right hand of God:

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Consider also what is written in the Gospels:

"And they brought young children that he should put his hands on them and pray. And his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

We read also that on the day of Pentecost, when St. Peter called upon the people, saying, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost," he assured them that the promise pertained not only to them, but also to their children.

It is plainly the duty of those who dedicate children to God in this holy sacrament to make confession of their faith.

Do you receive the doctrine of the Christian faith, whereof we make confession, saying:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting?

Answer: We do.

Do you hereby dedicate this child to be baptized in this faith? And do you solemnly promise that he (she) shall be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and in the doctrines and duties of our holy religion?

Answer: We do.

Minister: The Lord preserve you and the child, and give you grace faithfully to perform these promises.

Let us pray:

Almighty and ever-living God, whose dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, gave commandment to his apostles that they should make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; we humbly beseech thee to bless thine own ordinance now to be administered and to ratify in heaven what by thine appointment we do upon earth.

O blessed Saviour, who wast carried as a child into the temple by thy most holy mother, and was taken up in the arms of Simeon the Just, grant thy blessing, we beseech thee, to this child here presented before thee, the Lord of all. Amen.

(Parents or others presenting the child).

Minister: Name this child.

Answer: N. or N. N.

The minister pronouncing the name aloud says:

N. or N. N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Let us pray:

We yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it has pleased thee to receive this child into thy holy Church,

to be a partaker of the inestimable benefits purchased by the blood of thy dear Son; and we beseech thee to grant that being ingrafted into Christ the true vine, he (she) may evermore abide in him and receive out of his fullness. Grant that he (she) may grow in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man. Suffer him (her) not to fall away from thee, but may he (she) in due time heartily renew his (her) baptismal vows; may he (she) witness a good confession, and, persevering to the end, obtain a full and final victory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

## BRIEF BAPTISMAL SERVICE

### (FOR INFANTS)

(Sometimes a very brief service of baptism is desirable, at a home, or even in the Church. The following may be used, or adapted to the need.)

Dearly beloved, as you have often been taught in this Christian Church, baptism is an ordinance of God instituted by Christ and signifying the washing away of our sins and our renewing by the Holy Ghost. God speaking to Abraham, the father of all that believe, said: "I will establish my covenant between me and thee, in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be a God to thee and thy seed after thee." To this same the apostle Peter testified when he said, "For the promise is to you and to your children." Since, then, baptism has come in the place of circumcision, infants are to be baptized as heirs with us of the kingdom and covenant of God.

You, therefore, the parents of this child, accept anew the covenant of grace as offered to you and as embracing him (or her; and so throughout, as the case may be).

You do consecrate your child to the Lord, and in reliance upon Divine grace promise to give (him) the instruction and discipline enjoined by Christ for the lambs of his flock. Is this your engagement?

(The parent now handing the name of the child in writing to the minister, the latter shall say:)

I baptize thee A. B. in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we bless thee that thou hast given to these parents this dear child. Ratify in thy kingdom above what ministering in thy name we have done in thy kingdom below. Receive this child as thine own. May (his) life and health and strength be very precious in thy sight. May he grow up in the love of thee and of all that is good and true. Bless these parents and help them to live aright before him, setting a good example and teaching him thy way in all things. Bless all the baptized children of the church. Give them quick ears to hear the beauty of thy truth. Give them hearts that shrink from sin. May they early come to know and love and serve thee. At last may we all be brought as unbroken families into thy kingdom above. We ask in the name of Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Benediction:

May the blessing of the God of the covenant, the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of your fathers, whom we adore as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, be with you and your seed for ever. Amen.

## FORM FOR BAPTISM OF ADULTS (1)

Inasmuch as our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has given authority and commandment to his disciples to teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; and hath declared that he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation: this person, having witnessed a credible profession, now comes forward to obey this commandment.

Addressing the person the Minister shall say:

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

Answer: I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; who on the third day rose again from the dead; who ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead?

Answer: I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

Answer: I do.

Is it your desire to be baptized into this faith?

Answer: It is.

Having confessed your sin, and having embraced Christ as your Saviour, do you submit to him as Teacher, and is it your purpose faithfully to obey and serve him as your Lord and Master as long as you live?

Answer: It is.

The candidate kneeling, the minister shall say:

N, I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

(Or this form: By the authority of the Great Head of the Church, and upon profession of your faith in him, I baptize thee (using given name of candidate), in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.)

(Or this form: In obedience to the Great Commission, and upon profession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I baptize thee, my brother (or sister), in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.)

Prayer:

Benediction.

## ORDER FOR BAPTISM OF ADULTS (2)

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He then asks the person to be baptized:

Do you present yourself for holy baptism, desiring to be ingrafted into the body of Christ?

Answer: I do.

The minister then says:

Dearly beloved—attend to the words of the institution of this holy sacrament as delivered by our Lord and Saviour to his disciples after his resurrection and before his ascension to the right hand of God:

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

He then says to the person to be baptized:

Forasmuch, then, as you are desirous of receiving this holy sacrament, it is necessary that you sincerely answer, before God and his Church, to the questions I have now to ask.

Do you receive the doctrine of the Christian faith into which you are now to be baptized, whereof we make confession, saying—

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting?

Answer: I do.

Do you with heartfelt sorrow for your sins, renounce all evil and consecrate yourself to God as your Father, to Christ as your Saviour, and to the Holy Ghost as your sanctifier, promising in dependence on divine grace to keep his commandments all the days of your life?

Answer: I do.

Do you therefore desire to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and do you promise to follow Christ, and keep his commandments all the days of your life?

Answer: I do.

Let us pray:

Almighty and ever-living God, whose dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, gave commandment to his apostles

that they should make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; we humbly beseech thee to bless thine own ordinance now to be administered, and to ratify in heaven what by thine appointment we do upon earth. Look mercifully upon this person, we beseech thee, that he (she), coming to thy holy baptism, may receive remission of sin, and be born again of water and of the Holy Ghost. May his (her) name be enrolled in the Lamb's book of life, never to be blotted out; and grant that he (she), being planted into the likeness of the death and resurrection of Christ, may have the body of sin so destroyed in him (her) that he (she) may serve thee in newness of life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Asking name:

N. or N. N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

He then blesses the person baptized:

The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

He then says:

This person is now received by Christ's appointment into his Church, to be a partaker of the Lord's Supper, and of all the privileges of the new covenant, and is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto his (her) life's end.

Let us pray:

We yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it has pleased thee to deliver this, thy servant, from the power of darkness, and to incorporate him (her) into thy holy Church, to be a partaker of the inestimable benefits purchased by the blood of thy dear Son; and we beseech thee to grant that now being ingrafted into Christ, the true vine, he (she) may evermore abide in him, and receive out of his fullness. Suffer him (her) never to lose the grace of baptism, or to fall away from thee, but may he (she) fight the good fight of the faith, and constantly persevere in his (her) holy profession. Strengthen him (her), we beseech thee, through the Holy Spirit the Comforter, and daily increase in him (her) the manifold gifts of thy grace, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. As he (she) has vowed to be thy servant, help him (her), Lord, to fulfill his

(her) vow, and to remain faithful to thee. "Our Father," etc.

The minister may add an exhortation:

Dearly beloved, your eternal welfare depends upon the way in which you fulfill the engagements that you have now undertaken. I beseech you, therefore, to remember them throughout your whole life. Admitted to the privilege of full communion in the Church, walk worthy of your vocation. Fulfill your part as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, and strengthen your brethren, in whose ranks you now take your place. That you may be enabled to be faithful, seek always the help of God; wait upon all his ordinances; live by his Word; and join watchfulness to prayer. Thus devoting yourself to your God and Saviour, you will find his yoke to be easy, and his burden light. God on his part will bless you. He will give you his peace which passeth all understanding. He will make all things work together for your good, and you will finally receive the crown of life.

Benediction:

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

## ORDER FOR ADMISSION ON CONFESSION OF FAITH OF FORMERLY BAPTIZED MEMBERS

### (CONFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS)

Minister:

Dearly beloved—we are now about to admit to the confirmation of their baptismal vows and to the participation of the Lord's Supper those who have been under special instruction in the truths of the Gospel, and who are ready to confess publicly the faith into which they were baptized.

Addressing the persons, the minister shall say:

Dearly beloved—in the days of your infancy you were by holy baptism ingrafted into the Lord Jesus Christ and engaged to be his. God in his mercy has spared you to years of responsibility; and you have now, of your own choice, come forward to own and accept, before God and his Church, the covenant then made on your behalf; to profess your faith in the Lord Jesus; to consecrate yourselves to him, and thereby to bind yourselves anew to his service.

Do you receive the doctrine of the Christian faith into which you were baptized, whereof we make confession, saying:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting?

Answer: I do.

Do you ratify and confirm the vow of your baptism, and consecrate yourselves to God as your Father, to Christ as your Saviour, and to the Holy Ghost as your sanctifier, promising in dependence upon divine aid to serve the Lord, and keep his commandments all the days of your life?

Answer: I do.

Do you promise to submit yourselves to all the ordinances of Christ, to use faithfully the means of grace, and to give of your substance as the Lord may prosper you?

Answer: I do.

In consequence of these declarations and promises, and being satisfied as to your baptism, your Christian knowledge and life, I do now, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, admit you to the participation of the Lord's Supper, and to all the privileges of the new covenant.

The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit, and soul, and body, be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, who hast formed a Church in the world, and hast promised to perpetuate and protect it to the end of time, we thank thee for thy great mercy to these, thy servants, and to thy Church, to which thou hast given the joy of receiving them into full communion. We thank thee that from infancy, by holy baptism, they have been incorporated into the body of Christ. We thank thee for their Christian education, for the exhortation of parents and teachers, and that thou hast spared them, and given them power this day

to own and accept for themselves the covenant of salvation made with them before in the sacrament of baptism. Forgive, O Lord, all the sins which they have committed against thee; and graciously accept them now dedicating themselves to thee, their Lord and God. Strengthen them, we beseech thee, through the Holy Spirit the Comforter, and daily increase in them the manifold gifts of thy grace, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. As they have vowed to be thy servants, help them, Lord, to fulfill their vow, and to remain faithful to thee. May they bring forth abundantly the fruits of the Spirit, so that thy Church and people may be comforted and strengthened through them. Grant, O most merciful Father, that they may continue steadfast unto the end, and that their portion may be with thy saints at the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom with thee, the Father, and the Holy Ghost, be glory for ever. Amen.

The minister may add this exhortation:

Dearly beloved—Your eternal welfare depends upon the way in which you fulfill the engagements that you have now undertaken. I beseech you, therefore, to remember them throughout your whole life. Admitted to the privilege of full communion in the Church, walk worthy of your vocation. Fulfill your part as good soldiers of Christ, and strengthen your brethren, in whose ranks you now take your place. Remember that you are the temples of the Holy Ghost, and the members of Christ, and that you are bound to glorify him in your bodies and spirits which he hath redeemed. Give yourselves to piety, temperance, charity, and all the Christian graces. Obey those who are over you in the Lord, and labor for the peace and prosperity of the Church. That you may be enabled to be faithful, seek always the help of God; wait upon all his ordinances; live by his Word; and join watchfulness to prayer. Thus devoting yourselves to your God and Saviour you will find his yoke to be easy, and his burden light. God on his part will bless you. He will give you his peace which passeth all understanding. He will make all things to work together for your good, and you will finally receive the crown of life.

Benediction:

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Ghost be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

## PRAYER AT A CONFIRMATION

Almighty and most merciful God! We give thee hearty thanks, that thou hast called us to the knowledge of thyself, in Jesus Christ our Lord; and hast vouchsafed to make us partakers of the great and precious promises of thy holy Word. We praise thee for the certain assurance that these promises are unto us, and to our children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as thy grace shall call. O Merciful God, we have believed the witness of thy Word. We have dedicated these children from their infancy to thee. We have sought for them admission to thy Church by Holy Baptism. We have taught them thy saving truth; and now that they have reached years of discretion, we come with them to witness their willing renewal of the sacred vows that bind them to thy Covenant. Lord, we beseech thee, help them at this solemn hour. Work in them both to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Make them sincere in repentance, strong in faith, steadfast in hope, and fervent in charity. Receive them into the communion of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and enable them to persevere unto the end, by the grace of thy Holy Spirit. Amen.

## PRAYER AT A CONFIRMATION

O Lord our God, who hast chosen to thyself a Church on earth, and who hast promised to preserve it unto thy glory: Look down in thy goodness upon these baptized persons now before thee, who have been solemnly admitted to the full communion and fellowship of thy Church. Thou hadst already called them, by the promises of thy Covenant, which are made unto us and unto our children; and granted them the seal of this privilege of Christian birth, in the ordinance of Baptism. But since the weakness of their infancy prevented the personal and voluntary dedication of themselves, they come now to confirm the vows of obedience that were taken for them, to consecrate themselves entirely to thy service, and to beseech thee that thou wilt graciously regard them as thy children. They have been taught, O God, to

know thee, their Father, Saviour, and Sanctifier. They are persuaded that there is salvation in none other, and they desire to have part in the benefits of the sacrifice of Christ and his efficacious intercession. Accept, O Lord, these purposes of their hearts, and receive them into the communion of thy Son. May they love thy truth, and ever seek to know it more thoroughly, and to profess it more consistently unto the end of their lives. May they withstand all evil, renounce the world, its vanities and delusions, and live as the heirs and citizens of heaven. May the Sacrament of which they shall partake be accompanied with a fresh outpouring of thy grace upon them. Take possession of their hearts by thy Holy Spirit; and at last receive them with us into thy heavenly habitations, through our Great Redeemer and Advocate, Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen.

## ADMISSION OF A DEACONESS

(In some churches deaconesses are admitted to office. The following is suggested as a ceremony suitable for use, or it can be adapted to suit the circumstances or occasion.)

The deaconess standing before the minister, he may say to the woman in hearing of the people:

Dearly beloved, it belongeth generally to the office of a Deaconess to assist in all such good works as shall be committed unto them; especially visiting and tending the sick and needy, teaching the ignorant, and taking order for the seemly maintenance of God's house and of the things pertaining thereto. Art thou ready, of thine own free will, to undertake this work, and to give thyself faithfully thereto?

Woman: I am ready, God being my helper.

Minister: Wilt thou be obedient to them who are over thee in the Lord, cheerfully and faithfully performing the service that shall be appointed to thee?

Woman: I will, by the help of God.

The woman shall then kneel before the minister, who shall pray as follows:

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast hallowed women by the birth of thine only-begotten Son, our Lord, from a pure virgin, look now, O Lord, on this thine handmaid, call her to the work of thy ministry, send down on her the rich gifts of thy Holy Spirit; keep her steadfast in the faith, and

grant that she may always fulfill her office according to thy good pleasure, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

If there is any cross, badge or other insignia to be given, the minister may hand the same to the woman, saying:

Receive and wear this (Cross, Badge, or ——), a symbol of thy profession as a Deaconess. Be not ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and ever bear in thy heart the remembrance of His love who died on the cross for thee.

The minister may then bless the Deaconess as follows:

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve and sanctify thee, and so fill thee with all spiritual benediction and grace, with all faith, wisdom and humility, that thou mayest serve before him to the glory of his great Name, and to the benefit of his Church and people; make thee faithful unto death and give thee the crown of everlasting life. Amen.

Prayer:

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, to thine handmaiden whom we have called to the office of Deaconess, the grace of perseverance in her ministry; bestow on her the gifts of wisdom and sound judgment, of simplicity and singleness of heart, with sympathy with those amongst whom she dwells and works, of ready obedience to all lawful rule and authority; of firmness when she herself is called to rule, and of courtesy and mildness towards all with whom she has to do. Be thou, O Lord, her guide in all doubt, her support in weariness, and her comfort in sorrow, that thou mayest be also unto her an exceeding great reward in the day of the revelation of thine only begotten Son. To whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all praise now and for ever, world without end. Amen.

Benediction.

## PRAYER AT ORDINATION OF A MINISTER

O Lord, to whom all power is given in heaven and on earth! Thou art the Eternal Son of the Father; who hast so loved thy Church that to redeem and purify it thou didst humble thyself to the death of the Cross, and there shed thy most innocent blood. And to retain this thy most excellent benefit in memory thou hast appointed in thy Church pastors

and teachers, to instruct, admonish, and comfort thy people. Look upon us mercifully, O Lord, thou only King, Teacher, and High Priest to thine own flock, and send unto this thy servant our brother, whom in thy Name we set apart and ordain, such a portion of thy Holy Spirit that he may rightly divide thy Word, to the instruction of thy flock and the overthrow of error and vice. Give unto him, good Lord, thy grace and wisdom, whereby the enemies of thy truth may be confounded, the blind and ignorant edified, and thy sheep fed in the wholesome pastures of thy most Holy Word. Multiply thy graces upon him. Illuminate him with thy Holy Spirit. Comfort and strengthen him in all virtue. Govern and guide his ministry, to the praise of thy Holy Name, the promotion of thy Kingdom, the comfort of thy Church, and to the plain discharge of his own conscience in the day of the Lord Jesus: to whom, with the Father and with the Holy Ghost, be all honor, praise, and glory, now and ever. Amen.

## PRAYER AT ORDINATION OF AN ELDER

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, we thank thee that it hath pleased thee, for the better edification of thy Church, to ordain in it, besides the ministers of the Word, rulers and assistants, by whom thy Church may be preserved in peace and prosperity, and the indigent assisted; and that thou hast at present granted us, in this place, men who are of good report, and we hope endowed with thy Spirit. We beseech thee, replenish them more and more with such gifts as are necessary for them in their ministration: with the gifts of wisdom, courage, discretion, and benevolence; to the end that every one may, in his respective office, acquit himself as is becoming: the Elders, in taking diligent heed unto the doctrine and conversation, and in admonishing and reproving any disorderly persons. In like manner the Deacons, in carefully receiving, and liberally and prudently distributing the alms to the poor, and in comforting them with thy holy Word. Give grace both to the Elders and to the Deacons that they may persevere in their faithful labor and never become weary by reason of any pain or persecution of the world. Grant also thy divine grace to this people over whom they are placed, that they may willingly submit themselves to the good exhortations of the Elders, counting them worthy of honor for their work's sake. Give also unto them liberal hearts

toward the poor, and to the poor grateful hearts toward those who help and serve them, to the end that every one acquitting himself of his duty, thy holy Name may thereby be magnified, and the kingdom of thy Son Jesus Christ enlarged, in whose name we ask. Amen.

## PRAYER BEFORE ELECTING CHURCH OFFICERS

Almighty God, the Giver of all good gifts, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast appointed diverse administrations for the edifying of his Body in truth, holiness, and charity, mercifully look upon thy people whom thou hast redeemed, and, at this time, so guide and govern them that they may faithfully and wisely make choice of fit persons to serve before thee in thy Church. And to those who shall be appointed to any holy function give thy grace and heavenly benediction that both by their life and doctrine they may show forth thy praise and further the salvation of all men, to the glory of thy great name and the benefit of thy holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SENDING OUT A MISSIONARY

(This is not an ordination service, which is the part of the ecclesiastical body to which the person belongs. But sometimes a church that is to support a missionary as their own would gladly have a form of service sending the person forth. The following is suitable, or can be adapted to the circumstances.)

Minister: Dost thou, in the sight of God and of this congregation, accept this appointment to labor in ——?

Answer: I do.

Minister: Dost thou promise steadfastness, faithfulness, charity, and zeal for souls therein?

Answer: I do so promise, the Lord being my helper.

Minister: God, who hath given thee a good will, grant thee all grace and power to fulfill the same, and to persevere unto the end. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Luke 10: 1-9.

Prayer:

Almighty God, who didst send thine only begotten Son into the world for the redemption of mankind, and that the Gospel of his kingdom might be made known unto men

through the preaching of his apostles, send, we pray thee, thy Holy Spirit upon this thy servant whom thou hast called to labor in thy vineyard. Anoint him to preach the Gospel to the poor, send him to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And grant that he may follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who shalt judge the quick and the dead at thine appearing and thy kingdom, grant that this thy servant N—— may preach the Word, be instant in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine, watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, and make full proof of his ministry, that he may obtain the crown of righteousness which thou the righteous Judge shalt give him in that day: who livest and abidest for ever.

O God the Holy Ghost, who art the Giver of all good gifts, mercifully bestow upon this thy servant the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and the spirit of thy holy fear, that in faith and love he may hold fast the form of sound words which has been committed unto him, and giving attendance to reading, to exhortation, and to doctrine, may be an example to believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity, so that coming again with abundant fruit from the harvest of souls, he may be counted with them who, having turned many to righteousness, shine as the stars for ever and ever. Who with the Father, and the Son, livest and abidest for ever, world without end. Amen.

## INSTALLATION OF BIBLE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

1. Opening Sentences (all standing).

Leader: Who shall ascend into the hill of Jehovah? And who shall stand in his holy place?

School: He that hath clean hands and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto falsehood, and hath not sworn deceitfully.

All together: Let the words of my mouth and the medita-

tion of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Jehovah, my rock and my redeemer.

2. Song: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty." Verses 1, 2, and 4.

3. Responsive Reading (School seated).

Leader: The law of Jehovah is perfect, restoring the soul.

School: The testimony of Jehovah is sure, making wise the simple.

Leader: The precepts of Jehovah are right, rejoicing the heart.

School: The commandment of Jehovah is pure enlightening the eyes.

Leader: The fear of Jehovah is clean, enduring forever.

School: The ordinances of Jehovah are true, and righteous altogether.

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold.

School: Sweeter also than honey and the droppings of the honeycomb.

Leader: Moreover by them is thy servant warned.

School: In keeping them there is great reward.

Leader: Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?

School: By taking heed thereto according to thy Word.

Leader: Teach me, O Jehovah, the way of thy statutes.

School: And I shall keep it unto the end.

4. Song: "O Word of God Incarnate." Verses 1, 2, and 4.

5. Prayer: (All seated, with bowed heads, and repeating in concert:)

Grant unto us, almighty God, the knowledge of thy way and the spirit of obedience thereunto. May our thoughts be as thine, our will as thy will, that peace may rule in our hearts. Help us to cast out all those things that are contrary to thy will, so that ours may be the life of trust and faith and obedience. Give us a heartfelt longing for thy truth, and help us to walk in its light, that thy mercy may abide upon us at all times. Hear us in thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

6. Statement of the Resignation of Former Superintendent and election of the new one.

7. Statement of the Action of the Official Board. (By a Member of the Board.)

8. Prayer of Consecration.

9. Charge to the Superintendent-elect. By Pastor.

10. Acceptance of the Charge. By new Superintendent.

11. Consecration Service (all standing).

Pastor: Now this is the commandment, the statutes, and the ordinances, which Jehovah your God commanded to teach you, that thou mightest fear Jehovah thy God, to keep all his commandments and his statutes. And these words shall be upon thy heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children.

School: Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Pastor: Jesus said, Come ye after me and I will make you to become fishers of men.

Officers and Teachers:

Teach me thy way, O Jehovah,
And lead me in a plain path.
I will meditate on thy precepts
And have respect unto thy way.

Pastor: Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.

Officers and Teachers: I thank him that enabled me, even Christ Jesus our Lord, for that he counted me faithful, appointing me to his service. Help me to be worthy of thy trust, O God.

Pastor: God is faithful, through whom ye were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

12. Song: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee."

13. Benediction.

## INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR TEACHERS AND OFFICERS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

(More ought to be made of the office of teaching in our Sunday Schools. One way to do this is to arrange for a formal and dignified service of installation.)

Voluntary.

Processional, "Onward, Christian Soldiers." (Sunday School officers and teachers enter and occupy reserved seats.)

Doxology.

Invocation.

Gloria Patri.

Hymn.

Responsive service.

Pastor: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.—Rom. 12:1.

Response: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; and when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.—1 Pet. 5:2, 4.

Pastor: And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.—Rom. 12:2.

Response: But he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me; and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me; for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.—Luke 22:26; 9:48.

Pastor: For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.—Rom. 12:4, 5.

Response: As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God: if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth; that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever.—1 Pet. 4:10, 11.

Pastor: Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching.—Rom. 12:6, 7.

Response: Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.—Gal. 6:6.

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.—1 Tim. 5:17.

Pastor: Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.—Col. 3:16.

Response: That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones polished after the similitude of a palace.—Ps. 144: 12.

Pastor: Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.—2 Tim. 2: 7.

Response: Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.—Eccl. 12: 1.

Pastor: Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me.—John 5: 39.

Response: Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.—2 Tim. 2: 15.

Pastor: I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing; teach the word; be instant in season, out of season; exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.—2 Tim. 4: 1, 2.

Prayer.

Anthem.

Statement by pastor of the subject of the service.

Announcements and offering.

Hymn.

Installation Sermon.

Workers' Covenant:

Trusting in God for strength, we, as teachers and officers of this Sunday School, will, to the best of our ability, endeavor to be true to our God, loyal to our church, and faithful to our duties.

Pastor:

In the name of the Sunday School of this church, I commit to you the duties and labors pertaining to your office as teacher or officer, believing that God's choicest blessings will be yours in the performance of the duties which you have accepted.

Consecrating Prayer and Benediction.

—Rev. George R. Ross.

## SERVICE FOR THOSE AT SEA IN A STORM

(Such service may be used on behalf of others by friends on shore or at home, or in the ship at sea.)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Minister: "Thy way is in the sea."

People: "And thy paths in the great waters."

Minister: "Thou rulest the raging of the sea: thou stillest the waves thereof when they arise."

People: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Scripture Lesson:

"And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And the disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"—Matt. 8:23-27.

Prayer:

O Lord God Almighty, who walkest upon the wings of the wind and bindest the floods from overflowing; mercifully protect thy servants from perils in the sea, as thou didst save Noah in the ark, Peter when he was sinking, and Paul in the time of shipwreck, that they may always praise thy holy Name, and when they leave their ships may follow thy Son forevermore. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Or this for those in the storm.)

Thou, O Lord, who stillest the raging of the sea, hear, hear us, and save us, that we perish not. O blessed Saviour, who didst save thy disciples ready to perish in a storm, hear us, and save us, we beseech thee. Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. O Lord, hear us. O Christ, hear us. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, have mercy upon us, save us now and evermore. Amen.

(Or this for those in the storm.)

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word and

deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction:

The Lord, the Lord God, who divided the seas with his power and brought his people over on dry ground, bless, protect, and deliver his servants on the deep and lead them finally into that place which is called the Fair Haven, nigh whereunto is the City of the Lord. Amen.

## CEREMONY FOR THE ADOPTION OF A CHILD

(Occasionally ministers are asked to conduct in a home or in the church a ceremony in connection with the adoption of a child. The following can be used, or will prove suggestive.)

Scripture: Exodus 2:5-10.

Minister: Dost thou desire to adopt this child for thine own?

Answer: I do.

Minister: Wilt thou be to him (her) a father (or mother) in spirit and in deed?

Answer: I will.

Minister: Wilt thou deal with him (or her) as thine own offspring, and never forsake him (or her) nor cast him (or her) off?

Answer: I will.

Minister: Wilt thou bring him (or her) up in the knowledge, fear and love of the Lord?

Answer: I will, God being my helper.

Minister: God, who hath put it into thy heart to do these things, give thee grace to fulfill it unto the end.

The minister then addressing the child, if it is old enough, adds:

Minister: Wilt thou go with this man (or woman) to be his (or her) child?

Answer: I will.

Minister: Wilt thou be obedient and loving unto him (or her)?

Answer: I will, God being my helper.

Minister: God, the Son of God, who was obedient to His foster-father, Joseph, give thee grace so to do.

If the child is an infant the minister takes it into his arms and places its right hand in the adopter's hand, saying:

Our Lord Jesus Christ hath said: Whoso shall receive one such little child in my name, receiveth me. The angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the child, and let thy name be named upon him.

Prayer:

O Lord God, Creator of the world, wno in the first Adam didst institute fleshly kinship, and hast made us thy kindred through grace, in thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, look on these thy servants, who humbly beseech thy blessing, and as they have bound themselves to one another as father (mother) and son (daughter), united in thee, so grant that by perseverance in holiness they may obtain those good things which they desire, and be fitted for adoption in thee, to the honor and praise of thy holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction:

The Almighty God, who hast predestinated us unto the adoption of children, by Jesus Christ unto himself, make you heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, that ye may be glorified together. Amen.

THE END

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